



IN THE MAGAZINE THE GREAT ESCAPE: HOLIDAYS FOR MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT

ROD: D'YA STILL SEXY

PAGE 9



Ditch Ashdown, ministers tell Blair

TONY BLAIR is facing a rebellion by the Cabinet's three AND COLIN BROWN "heavy-hitters" over Labour's close links with the Liberal Democrats in a move that puts a new question mark over the

future of Paddy Ashdown. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor and Jack Straw. the Hume Secretary, are to join forces in an attempt to prevent. Brown's press secretary. Mr Blair calling a referendum on electoral reform before the next general election.

Mr Brown's opposition could

in Cape Town

put on a united front with his Chancello: after faction-fighting between their respective allies was blamed for the resignations of two senior ministers - Peter Mandelson and Geoffrey Robinson - and Chartie Whelan, Mr

A source close to Mr Brown said: "He doesn't understand why we need to offer the Lib Dems proportional represenhamper Mr Blair's attempts to tation [PR]. He believes first-

past-the-post is a better, more

Mr Straw are increasingly confident of blocking a referendum since the departure of Mr Mandelson, who was the Cabinet's strongest supporter of closer Lib-Lah relations.

ceded vesterday that an early referendum was "less likely" but could still call one before the next election if he felt he could win public support for a new voting system for Westminster.

that links with the Liberal De-Mr Brown, Mr Prescott and mocrats would "intensify" but senior ministers claim he is in a clear minority in his own Cabinet. "The balance of forces on this issue has changed considerably," said one.

Mr Ashdown, already under Sources close to Mr Blair con- fire in his own party for "cosying up" to Mr Blair, is hracing himself for further criticism as insisted the Prime Minister the prospect of a referendum

Although the Liberal Democrat leader's critics will not move against him in the run-up

to elections to local authorities, and said he would not consider the Scottish and Welsh assemhlies and the European Parliament this spring, he will face a showdown over Lib-Lah relations at his party's conference

in Harrogate in September. There could be moves to replace Mr Ashdown with a leader less keen on close links with Mr Blair, such as Charles Kennedy, the agriculture spokesman, or Simon Hughes. the health spokesman.

Last night, Mr Ashdown's allies doubted that his opponents would force a leadership contest

standing down until after the next general election. "He doesn't think there is a successoryet; he is still enjoying things and achieving things," said one.

In a further hlow to Mr Ashdown, opposition to electoral reform inside the Labour Party has forced Mr Blair to put off a decision on the issue until autumn 2000, further reducing the prospect of a referendum before the next election, ex-

pected in 2001. Supporters of reform had hoped that the Labour confer-

decide on plans by a commission headed by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, which recommended a watered-down form of PR called the "alternative vote nlus"

The Prime Minister said the Jenkins report made "a wellargued and powerful case hut has put off a decision in the hope of winning over hostile Labour activists and MPs. "The driving force for closer Lih Dem links was not Peter Mandelson; it was Tony Blair," one

Blair aide said last night. A defiant Mr Blair declared

ence in October this year would there would be no turning back from Labour's "third way" policies and rejected a return to old Labour policies.

Speaking in Cape Town as be completed his three-day trip to South Africa, be said: "The answer to all the world's ills can't be to spend more public money or run the public sector in the same old way," be said. "The new centre and centre-left in politics has to create its own constituency among the people."

Mondeo man wavers, page 8; Under fire, page 14; Leading

Britons in Yemen jail shot, claim families

TWO OF the five British men By JOHN DAVISON being detained in Yemen in connection with terrorist charges have been shot while in prison, lawyers acting for them said yesterday.

But the claims were dishave been in contact with the Yemeni Interior Minister and the Head of Security for Aden. The Foreign Office said it had not had any consular access to the men by last night however, amid growing anxiety about them.

An earlier claim that all the men have been tortured by the Yemeni authorities was also repeated by the mens' families.

Mr Rashad Yaqoob, of the Association of Moslem Lawyers, said that the mother of one of the men had been told by a prison source that two of them had been shot at. "We have information that the family of Malik Nassar Harhra received a phone call from a person with a link in the Yemen prison, but as of yet the extent of the injuries is unknown," he said. "Lawyers helping me in Aden have told me that all the prisoners have suffered inhu-

mane treatment." It was also revealed that the five men had all travelled separately to the Yemen last month, and did not know each other. They are Mohsin Ghalain. 18; Shahid Butt, 33; Malik Nassar Harbra, 26; Samad Ahmed, 21 and Ghulam Hussein, 25, all from Birmingham. They are

being held with Lebourdice Pierrick James, 30, from France.

The Yerneni authorities have said that the men were part of the Islamic extremist group Westerners last month, and that they had been planning terrorist attacks. Kidnappers from the militant group Al Jihad took 16 western hostages on December 28, and four were killed in a rescue attempt the next day. The Yemenis have claimed that the kidnappers were demanding the release of the arrested men.

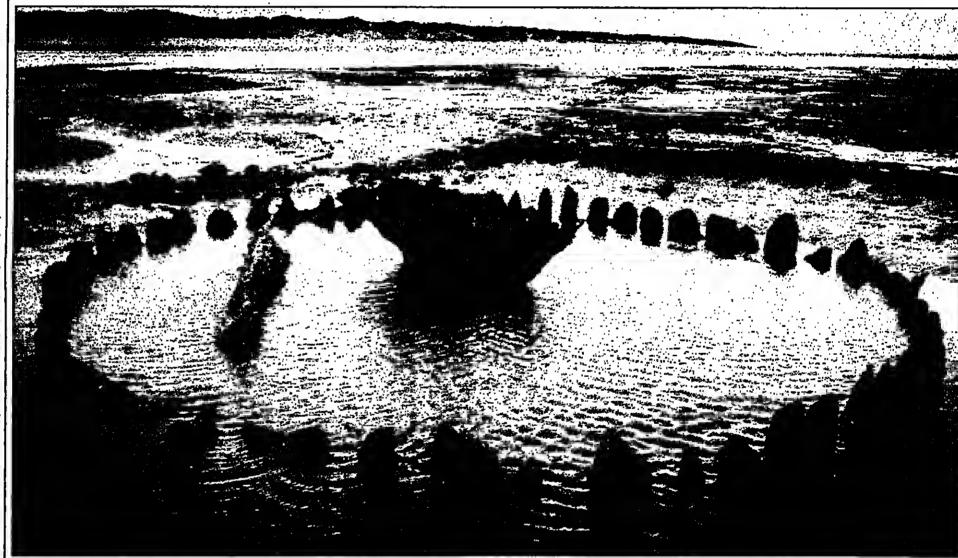
The Yemeni Emhassy in London said that the men had been arrested on 24 December and claimed they were "planning to carry out terrorist acts in the country prior to the Abyan kidnapping".

The British consul general in Aden David Pearce said of the shooting claims: "I am as confident as I can be that this report is not correct."

Families of the men yesterday pleaded with the Yemen government to release them. amid fears that the men could be tried and executed as soon as this weekend, although it was thought a trial would not be held during Ramadan, which has over a week to run.

The relatives deny that any of the men have done anything wrong and are planning a

Shifting sands yield 'Stonehenge of the sea'



The mysterious 'tree temple' on the north Norfolk coast. Unless action is taken the 4,000-year-old circle may disappear for ever Mark Brennand/Norfolk Archaeology Unit

IT IS one of the eeriest and most BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY mysterious ancient monuments discovered in Britain.

A massive oak tree, stuck into the ground upside down with its great spread of roots pointing skywards, stands surrounded by a palisade-like circle of oak trunks. And it has just

emerged from the sea. A wooden relative of Stoneof altar, it has been revealed by ly ritual and probably to do with demonstration in London.

the shifting sands of Norfolk, where it had lain buried and preserved for thousands of years. A beachcomber alerted archaeologists, who started ex-

cavating in October. The site, on the lonely coast at Holme-next-the-Sea near henge, thought to be some sort Hunstanton, is almost certain-

Environment Correspondent posts is the inverted oak tree with its roots, "like a table with fingers", says Dr Francis Pryor, president of the Council for

> lieves it is very likely to have been some form of altar.

The tree-temple - if that is what it is -has been uncovered by tidal erosion. It is thought to have been constructed in the early Bronze Age, between can be made until the site

British Archaeology. He be-

death. Within its oval ring of 54 2,000 and 1,200 BC, which would is precisely dated. Carbon- of exposing the bodies of the make it almost a contemporary of Stonehenge.

The site, says Dr Pryor, is the most extraordinary archaeological discovery he has ever seen and it must be preserved.

However, unless difficult decisions are taken soon about preserving it, it is likely to be destroyed by the action of the tides within two years. No decision dating of the wood is being carried out.

An excavation led by Mark Brennand of Norfolk County Council's Archaeology Unit suggests that the tree-temple was constructed on swampy ground some way inland, which

the sea covered at a later date. Mr Brennand believes the purpose of the site was probably excarnation - the practice

dead so that the flesh rotted more quickly, thus, it was thought, speeding the spirit on its way to the afterlife.

Dr Pryor added that for our ancestors oak was a special wood: "The inverted oak is not just utilitarian, a simple way of making an altar. It is a very complex symbolic statement. Perhaps a little sinister. It is the world turned upside down."

INSIDE THIS SECTION

Police officer suspende Surrey's Deputy Chief Constable is suspended after "harassment" allegations Home P2

Nurses backed over pay Frank Dobson backs nurses' claims for higher pay Home P4

Private firms in education The Government will advertise today for private firms to run local education services Home P9

Cilnton compromise Senate leader reaches a compromise over Clinton trial

Saddam fights for control Saddam Hussein is reported to be taking "desperate" steps to retain control of Iraq Foreign P15

Sait Lake City row Two members resign from Olympic organising committee Foreign P15

1.20 CC Denmark 18.00 DKr France 16.00 FFr GBratter

Brewery battle intensifies The bid battle for Marston Thompson & Evershed took an unprecedented twist **Business P18**

Cricket bribery scandai A bookmaker gave Shane Warne \$5,000 in a casino Sport P26

INSIDE THE REVIEW Stephen Poliakoff

The Saturday Essay Kenneth Minogue on wby our desire to conform is crushing the human spirit Comment P7

Wok'n'roli hero A Chinese pop singer trapped in a Liverpudlian's body Features P8

'radically old-fashioned' Arts P12 Michele Roberts

An interview with the novelist about food, sex and God Books P14

The playwright talks about

how his new TV drama is

How much does your garden really cost you every vear to run? Gardening P17

Havana holiday The pleasures of Cuba 40 years after the Revolution Travel P19



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THE FRIDAY REVIEW

THE INDEPENDENT Asstratta 6.90 AS Seigham 90 Sri Cyprus 120 CC Commark 18.00 DKr France 16.00 Fr Christian 19.00 France 16.00 France 16.00 Fr Christian 19.00 France 16.00 France 16.00 Fr Christian 19.00 France 16.00 France 16.00 Fr Christian 19.00 France 16.00 Fr Christian 19.00 France 16.00 France 16.00

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

'Michael has been accused of using his friends to his own advantage and, once they have been sucked dry, of promptly dropping them. But friendships do wear out? Julian Critchley on his old friend

THE BEST-WRITTEN SUNDAY PAPER IN BRITAIN, FEATURING IAN MORRIS, JONATHAN DIMBLEBY, RUTH PADEL, JEREMY CLARKE, JUSTIN CARTWRICE PETER YORK, JOAN SMITH, GILBERT ADAIR, MICHAEL BYWATER, DAVID THOMSON, DEAR ANNIE AND CAPTAIN MOONLIGHT

Excluded countries hurry to join euro

A WEEK after the launch of the euro, two of the four EU "outs", Denmark and Sweden, are sending clear signals of their desire to sign up to the single currency as soon as possible heightening the risk that Britain will much sooner than expected be left in the sole company of Greece outside the

In Denmark, traditionally a Eurosceptic redoubt, successive opinion polls since November have produced clear majorities in favour of joining. The most recent, on Thursday, showed 50 per cent of the pubhe in favour of membership, with 32 per cent opposed and 16 per cent undecided.

This survey came hard on the heels of a powerful endorsement of the euro by the Danish Prime Minister, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, and a prediction by Marianne Jelved, the Economy Minister, that growing public support would allow the referendum required to approve membership to be considered the earliest possible

Thus Denmark could enter the system well before euro notes and coins replace national currencies in mid-2002.

apparent conversion are the smooth debut of the single currency, after months during which the euro had shown its worth as a shield against global currency turbulence, and the growing fear that the country simply could not afford to sit on the sidelines.

In Sweden, such arguments resonate even more strongly. The moment of truth came in

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

high summer as the Asian crisis, followed by financial meltdown in Russia, threatened to turn Nordic financial markets inside out.

In the event, Sweden (as well as Norway, which is not an EU member) took a buffeting. But not neighbouring Finland, despite its common bor-

associations with the former Soviet Union. In both Scandinavian countries, as in Britain, industry is

der and long historical

strongly in favour of the euro. Like Britain, both Denmark and Sweden easily meet the economic qualifications for

membership Unlike Britain, however, fears over being marginalised in Europe now outweigh reluctance to make the surrender of national sovereignty implicit in the euro.

Thus, in contrast to Tony Blair, the Swedish Prime Minister, Goran Persson, has just beld well before 2001, previously called for an early decision by his ruling Social Democrat party on whether to join the single currency. This could come at a special party congress early next year, opening the way for a referendum to approve

> If Denmark and Sweden enter, only Britain and Greece would be left out by the time euro notes and coins are circulating. By then Greece too could be on the point of joining. Failure to meet the economic criteria rather than domestic political opposition kept Athens out at the first time of asking. Greece now aims to join by 2004 at the latest.

BRITAIN TODAY



A wreath yesterday hanging on the memorial to the 47 passengers killed 10 years ago in the plane crash at Kegworth, Leicestershire Raymonds

Police chief suspended over harassment and assault claims



Ian Beckett: Suspended after assault allegations

ONE OF the country's most se- BY JASON BENNETTO nior police officers has been suspended after accusations of "harassment and assault", it was announced yesterday.

Constable of Surrey, was suspended on Thursday at the end of an emergency police authority meeting, which has set up an inquiry into the matter.

The allegations were made earlier in the week by an employee. Mr Beckett is the most senior officer to be suspended in response to allegations of

The police force refused to

Crime Correspondent

disclose whether the claims included allegations of sexual been made by a police officer or member of the civilian staff.

A statement by Surrey Police Authority said that the suspension had taken place with "immediate effect".

It added: "The Surrey Police Authority and Chief Constable of Surrey Ian Blair regard this matter as extremely serious and have responded so quickly to the allegations because, whilst not prejudicing the out- in Guildford yesterday morning come of any investigation, they before news of his suspension remain committed to fairness was made public.

and respect in the workplace." An investigation will be carlice under supervision by the Police in 1991 as the assistant independent Police Complaints chief constable, rising to the Authority. The PCA said yesdeputy's job in 1994. terday it had agreed to the As a chief inspector in the suspension. A spokesman Metropolitan Police, he was the added: "We would hope to commander of the raid on the complete our investigations home of Dorothy Groce in which

Mr Beckett was awarded going to be." Mr Beckett was said to have the Queen's Police Medal in

within 120 days but I do not

know how complex this case is

left Surrey Police headquarters

He is the latest senior police officer to be suspended and investigated after allegations of

she was shot and which sparked

the Brixton riots of 1985.

wrongdoing were made. Frank Wilkinson, the Chief Constable of Gwent, has been suspended for more than a year after allegations were made surrounding the issue of a speeding ticket to a prominent councillor and the award of contracts.

The Police Complaints Authority warned in their annual report last June about the increasing number of complaints made by women accusing police officers of sexual harassment.

'No mon action' on loan scandal

BY ANDREW GRICE Political Editor

ed a police inquiry into his application for a mortgage, even though he failed to tell the Britannia Building Society about his £373,000 personal loan from Geoffrey Robinson.

The Britannia announced vesterday it would take no further action against Mr Mandelson, saying the information he gave when he applied for a £150,000 mortgage was "accurate". Sources close to Mr Mandelson insisted he did nut disclose the loan because it had not been arranged when be applied for a mortgage in 1996.

At the time, he had hoped to find the rest of the £475,000 needed to buy his house in Notting Hill, west London, with help from his mother. But when her financial circumstances did not allow it, he turned to Mr Robinson, who later became the paymaster-general.

Sources close to Mr Mandelson admit it was an oversight that he did not tell the Britannia about the loan."He wanted to maintain the confidentiality that he had agreed with Mr Robinson," said one.

The Tories questioned the building society's decision, saying there should not be one rule for ordinary house buyers and another for government ministers. John Redwood, the trade and industry spokesman, called on the Britannia and Mr Mandelson to publish all the details He has been in the police of the loan to help the inquiry service for 33 years and joined by Elizabeth Filkin, the Comwhether the arrangement should have been declared in the MPs' register of interests.

> John Heaps, Britannia's chief executive, insisted that "no special courtesies" had been extended to Mr Mandelson. Normally, the society calls in the police only when borrowers fail to maintain repayments.

Mr Heaps said Mr Mandelson's mortgage account had been maintained satisfactorily at all times, and he had written clarifying his present financial position. "I am satisfied that the information given to us at the time of the murtgage application was accurate," he said.

Mr Mandelson said be was "delighted" he had been given a "clean bill of health" by the building society. Meanwhile, the Tories criticised Mr Mandelson's involve-

ment, at the invitation of the Prime Minister, in a joint work-

ing group with the German

government yesterday.

Neon today

FORECAST

General situation: A cold day everywhere. Apart from some mist patches in the south of the country it will start off sunny, and there will be further spells of sunshine throughout the day. Most places will see a partial build-up of cloud, however, and there is the threat of showers in coastal areas. Showers will turn wintry, especially across north-east England and the east and north of Scotland. Cent S England, Midlands: Some decent sunshine and only a slight risk of a wintry shower. A light northerly wind. Max temp 3-5C (37-419). SWI England, Wales: Plenty of sunshine and a slight risk of a wintry shower. A light to moderate northerly wind. Max temp 3-6C (37-43F). Channel Is: Showers and sunny spells. A moderate northerly 7C (43-45F).

NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Mainly suriny. A light northerly wind. Max temp 3-5C (37-41F).

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LIGHTING UP 4.19pm 4.13pm 4.21pm 4.05pm 4.12pm 4.10pm 3.59pm

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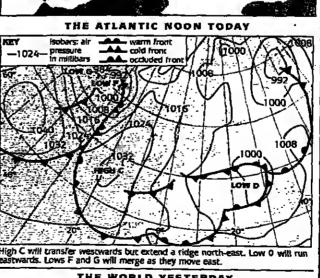
petitioning the Government for help in dealing with a plague of locusts in Queensland after unusually humid

YESTERDAY EXTREMES Warmest: Isle of Wight 10C (50F) Coldest (day): Althahema OC (32F) Wattest: Leening 0.51 ins For 24hrs to 2pm Friday

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RAIN OR SHINE... AUSTRALIAN FARMERS are

weather spawned ideal breeding conditions for the voracious crop-eater, The insects breed five times a year and can increase their numbers sevenfold within months. An area of 150,000 acres in central Queensland has been sprayed to protect grain, citrus crops and pastures.



THE WORLD

EUROPE NOON TODAY

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

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THE FIVE TRIBES OF CONSERVATIVE WOMEN



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PREW GRICE

1 Editor

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SUBURBAN QUEEN

Dame Jtl! Knight Quintessentlal Edgbaston Tory madame. Hyacinth Bucket loves her! Big hair, big eyes. big dresses, and very big on loyalty. Paid-up member of hang 'em and flog 'em and heavily involved in Townswomen's Guilds. Uncompromising views, Enthusiast of tapestry.



LOUD AND PROUD

Teresa Gorman

Libertarian. Billericay woman to the core. Wants out of Europe now, if not sooner, and wrote a book called 'Bastards!' that was all about Europe but could have been about men, Extreme believer in HRT and loud jackets. Knocked 10 years off her age to get selected.



THE MATRON

Ann Widdecombe

Hattie Jacques of the Tones. The woman who assassinated Michael Howard by saying he had "something of the night" about him, Good sport, superb speaker, fervent anti-abortlonist. Spends her spare time researching Charles II's



LADY BOUNTIFUL

Virginia Bottomley

Former psychiatric social worker turned politician. The caring, if bland, face of the Tories but was too robotic on TV for her own good. Very Marks & Spencer and fragrant too. From grand old family whose members believe in



HAGUE BABE

Julie Kirkbride

Young, working-class and a true believer in the Portillo way. Only a few years ago was just another journalist in a black leather skirt. Married to Northern Ireland spokesman Andrew Mackay. Tipped to go all the way to

Wanted: ambitious women for safe Tory seats; blue rinses needn't apply

BLAIR HAS his 101 "Babes", Hague only has 14. The Tories have suddenly decided this is not good enough,

William Hague has said that he wants to change all this, and vesterday it was reported that the party has set a secret target of putting up 250 female cau-didates to fight the next general

Central Office denies there is a quota but Roger Freeman, who is overseeing candidate selection, says he hopes to recruit an array of high-calibre women who will prove irresistible to the selection panel. A lot of high-calibre women will say that the selection panels found them mysteriously easy to resist but

wish him well anyway. Everyone says that in the Labour Party the men discrimBY ANN TRENEMAN

inate against the women, but in the Tory party it is the women who do the discriminating. Not the voters, but those who sit on the selection committees.

"It was just plain old-fashioned jealousy!" says one MP. These Tory women are not so much true blue as blue rinse and they have had little to offer their party but time. So why would they want a young thrusting female MP? Why take a chance on all those hormones wben you could get a nice barrister in a pin stripe with two children and a wife?

Not that most Tory woman would tell you that on the record. But then Tory women do not tend to go on the record in a 1950s' time warp. about such things.

ings at Tory party conferences on women and no one talks during the proceedings. On the whole, I think Tory women are quite well-behaved," says Mary Ann Stephenson, of the Fawcett

But, after the meetings, it all spills out. "They just say they've been trying for the past 28 years and they keep going to training courses and having their hair done and buying the right suits and they still don't get selected."

The whole subject of women MPs makes Edwina Currie laugh. "People do say it is the women who hold other women back with the Tories, but 1 think the wbole party is stuck

There is no heartfelt wish

"I've been to so many meet- to have MPs who reflect the country as a whole, That would mean talking about gay MPs or black MPs. Instead they are still talking about women. There has been women's liberation since the Sixties. The Tory party, bless their cotton socks.

have just caught up." A study by the Tory thinktank, the Bow Group, has found that barely 3 per cent of party members are women aged under 45. Fiona Buxton, deputy chair-

man of the Bow Group, says the average age of members is 67. Bea Campbell, the author of Iron Ladies, calls It a "generational catastrophe". Linda McDougall, author of

Westminster Women and wife of the Labour MP, Austin make an impact. Mitchell, says that the Conser-

vatives should see this as an opportunity to change forever the view that they see women only as wives, grannies or nannies.

William Hague could make wholesale change in the thinking," sbe says. Now, women are selected only in extreme circumstances, "When there is sleaze or scandal, they turn to a woman," she says, pointing out that Jacqui Lait replaced Piers Merchant.

Obviously this is oot the most sensible way to go about increasing the oumber of women MPs. Labour achieved Its great leap forward with allwomen shortlists, subsequently abandoned as illegal. Many say that without such drastic measures the Tories will never

There is not a party in Eu-

rope with a significant number of women in its parliament that has not used quotas. But even the word is enough to make

many Tories see red. "Every woman in Parliament should be able to look every man in the eye and say that she got their the same way that he did," says the leading Tory MP, Ann Widdecombe.

The leadership wants to fudge this however Mr Hague has proposed that 25 per cent of the candidates interviewed in the first round of Westminster selections should be women. The party rejected that

but it could change.
The Tory MP Julie Kirkbride is young and thrusting and believes that women should make up half of every shortlist. Others, like the former

Tory adviser, Sheila Gunn, are now coming round to this way of thinking. "One talented woman friend searched for a winnable seat for more than 20 years. At first she was told that she was too young, that she had

a young family and so couldn't devote herself fully to the job and, then, that she was too old at over 40," she wrote in the Spectator last year, "It would be unforgivable for her daughters to suffer the same fate."

Miss Widdecombe does oot

believe they will. She says her heart used to sink when she saw a mostly female selection panel, but those days are gone. "We must not go down the route of positive discrimination. I'm not very impressed with most of "Blair's Babes". They get their pagers out before they even

begin to speak. Not all of them, but many of those who came in because of discrimination are very substandard."

This dislike of the Babes seems to cross most divides. Bea Campbell says the Tories should see this as a great opportunity now that Labour has failed oo women,

"The Barooess Jays of this world hate what they call Seventies feminism - simple things like equal pay - and the coterie around Blair are deeply misogynist. They are short-haired, stiff, young centurions who feel very safe in an environment where they don't have to carry the burden of women and what matters to them.

Over to you, Mr Hague. Leading Article, Review, page 3

'Men never said to your face they didn't want you'

BY LOUISE JURY

THE DOUBTS were rarely raised in public. It was only afterwards that they trickled back to the prospective Tory woman candidate, one recalled

"Nothing was ever specifi-cally stated," Tessa Keswick said. "It's not easy to identify where the hostility comes in. You used to hear more afterwards about the opinions they never actually said - that they didn't want a woman." Mrs Keswick, now director of

the Centre for Policy Studies, a centre-right policy think-tank, first tried to get elected in 1987 and was eventually allowed to fight a completely unwinnable seat. In 1992 she tried again but was not even selected. After that

she gave up.

She remembers aggressive questioning in interviews, although she concedes that men probably endured equally agessive grillings - though possibly on different subjects. Why aren't you wearing a

wedding ring?' they asked me once. I was married, but just didn't have the ring on."

There was no doubt men had the upper hand. "If they had to



choose, they would rather have as a local councillor, Tessa a man. They'd appoint a male chairman in a ward because he of her own. "But I think you had was a banker without even knowing him. I guess it was rather the same [with MPs]. If be selected. Judith Chaplin the CV is good enough, and the who was a trained economist smile, they like the man. But it was not stated."

With a background in ad- her." vertising and business, a smattering of journalism and service ceived no help at all from Tory sucked on a lemon."

had the impression that that position had since improved. "It was men who were the pets, who were pushed by the [constituency] chairmen." Female solidarity was largely non-existent out there in the

Central Office, although she

Tory shires and boroughs. "The women were deeply suspicious of other women. They love the young men."

Mrs Keswick said there was no point in appointing women who were not up to the job, and she feared that many potentially good candidates currently saw standing for the Conservatives as a bad career

But it was vital for the future of the Conservative Party that the party understood the difference that more women would make. "Without them, the Conservative Party is going to

The positions she met have convinced Mrs Keswick that words are not enough. "I think it will take 30 years to get more women at this rate," she said. "Women MPs are just so important. They have got to feel that, instead of looking at them with pursed lips as if they had SEICENTO. BE SMALL AGAIN.



Marrieds becoming minority

MARRIED PEOPLE will be in By CLARE GARNER the minority for the first time in recorded memory if current predicted yesterday.

The percentage of married adults is expected to fall to 48 per cent by 2011 and still further, to 45 per cent, by 2021, according to the Government Actuary Department. At present, marof the population in England year-olds, the rise in the pro-

Couples who co-habit are married) people who co-habit, go on? Life is often cyclical... drop from 49 per cen likely almost to double in num- and the small increase in the di-

ber - from 1.56 million in 1996 trends continue over the next to about 3 million in 2021. But

the 21st century. The Government's figures vorce rate, will continue at the same rate.

Keswick had a reasonable CV

to be extremely good, you just had to be that much better to

was, but she had about eight

cabinet ministers ringing up for

Mrs Keswick said she had re-

The proportion of men who have never married is expect-10 years, government experts despite the dramatic rise, there ed to rise from 32 per cent in will still be fewer people living 1996 to 41 per cent in 2021. For as couples - married or un- women, the figure is expected married - in the first quarter of to rise from 24 per cent to 33 per

cent over the same period. A spokesman for the Church are based on the assumption of England insisted last night that trends such as the fall in that the decline in marriage ried people make up 55 per cent the marital rate for under 30. was not a foregone conclusion. "If there is a downward trend, portion of single (never the question is, how long will it

teach that marriage is the best way to cement a relationship and bring up children."

Divorce is likely to fall among younger age groups, but rise among the over-45s. The overall number of divorces among adults will rise from 8.55 per cent of all adults in 1996 to 11 per cent in 2021. Projected improvements in mortality mean the proportion of people who are widowed is to fall. It is expected that the number of widowed females over 65 will drop from 49 per cent in 1996 to

DRIVEN BY PASSION

PICENTO RANGE STARTS FROM (4520.3) ON THE ROAD FOR THE SECENTO 5 3DR PICLUDING (470 FOR DELMEN TO DEALER PLATES AND 12 MONTHS SEIGENT MANUAL STAIRTS FROM CASALTS ON THE BRAD TWA THE SEIGENLOSS BY THE MANUAL BRAD TO THE SALE IT SHOULD SHOULD THE SALE IT SHOWN THE SALE IS AND IT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF CORDINATE AMOUNT PAYMER IS SALE IS AND IT MANUAL SHOWN SEIGENTO SPORTING AT 17,510.25 ON THE BRAD PRICES CORPECT FROM THE OF REINTING 24/12/88, RIVANCE OFFER CHOPS 31/3/99, FREE IT SURANCE IS AWALABLE TO PRIVATE CUSTOMERS AGED IT TO 35 ONLY SURBECT TO CONDITIONS CREDIT AVAILABLE TO ANYONE AGED ITS OR OVER SUBJECT TO STATUS THESE OFFER CANNOT BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER OFFER AGUARANTE AND/OR INDOMINATION HORSE REQUIRED WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE TO ANY OFFER OFFER SUBJECT TO STATUS THESE OFFER SUBJECT TO STATUS THE OFFER SUBJECT TO STATUS THE OFFER SUBJECT TO STATUS THESE OFFER SUBJECT TO STATUS THESE OFFER SUBJECT TO STATUS THESE OFFER SUBJECT TO STATUS THE OFFER SUBJECT TO STATUS THESE OFFER SUBJECT TO STATUS THE OFFER SUBJE Health crisis: Staff speak of demoralisingly poor pay as one of Britain's top doctors resigns over bed shortages

Dobson backs a new deal for nurses

weight behind nurses' claims for higher pay yesterday as he condemned as an "international disgrace" the recruitment of foreign nurses from abroad to shore up the ailing National Health Service.

The Secretary of State for Health said he wanted to see better pay, more flexible shifts, family-friendly employment poli- be staged, as it was last year cies and a new pay structure to make nursing a more attractive career and help to end the prac-

Health Editor

tice of hospitals recruiting overseas. With the nurses' pay re-view body due to report later this month, he said he hoped its recommendations would be "sufficiently high" to attract and retain nurses. He also said he hoped the pay award would not

His remarks came as nurses from the Philippines tried on their NHS uniforms after being

three times better than at home. Meanwhile, hospitals in Portsmouth appealed to patients' relatives to help out because of staff

The British Association for Accident and Emergency Medicine said yesterday that the drive to cut waiting lists was diverting resources from emergency care and had led to the shortage of beds. It is demanding a meeting with Mr Dobson. Dr Roger Evans, president

sultant in Cardiff, said the situation was worse this winter because of the emphasis on treating patients for routine surgery. "That means there isn't room for emergencies. We have patients on trolleys in the department for six, eight, or ten hours at a time so it looks as if we are not performing when it is just because we can't move

the patients on to a bed." Yesterday, the pressures that threatened to overwhelm the

flown in for jobs they said paid of the association and a con-three times better than at home. Sultant in Cardiff, said the sit-peared to be easing. The health department said 23 intensivecare units had beds available, and doctors predicted the flu outbreak could have peaked and be on the way down in the northern and central regions.

Mr Dobson said that some overstretched hospitals were facing "real problems" in dealing with staff shortages and high demand for beds. He did not es going into training each criticise managers for seeking staff abroad but said: "It is an in-reduced it to 11,000. It takes

ternational disgrace... [developed countries] talk about how much medical aid and assistance they are giving to the Third World and all over the developing world we are taking nurses and doctors away from them."

Speaking on BBC Radio he said the blame for nursing shortages lay with the Tories. "At the beginning of this decade there were about 15,000 nursyear. The previous government

the reduced number coming out of nurse training now is a product of the reduction they deliberately made at that time."

cancies for nursing staff in the NHS and 15,500 murses are in training - the highest figure for six years according to Labour The Tory health spokeswoman, Ann Widdecombe, hit back at Mr Dobson's allegations

that the Conservatives were to

blame for the nursing crisis.

wriggle out of their NHS crisis. They refuse to admit that their obsession with the waiting list figures and distorting clinical priorities has been the real cause There are more than 8,000 vaof patients waiting for hours on trolleys in hospital corridors. and the spectacle of refrigerat ed lorries being used as temporary mortuaries," she said.

"They actually cut back our planned increase in trainee nurses for 1997-98 by 3 per cent, from 14 per cent to 11 per cent."

Peg brid

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'You don't get respect or money'

GRADUATING NURSES ex- BY CATHY COMERFORD pressed their hopes and fears for the future yesterday, with most of them disappointed at pros-

pects for their profession. Some had taken time out from their careers to requalify or take advance qualifications: they spoke at a ceremony at Homerton College, Cambridge.

Katie Chapman, 25, an auxiliary nurse at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, was receiving her higher-education diploma.

The qualification will raise her status to staff nurse and her pay from £7,500 to £12,800. "I am pessimistic for the future. At the moment it's very disheartening. You are working your hardest but not getting any respect or money. There is the bed crisis I don't think the situation is but if a bed is empty they say put someone in it, but there are not the people to care for them. It's dangerous."

Phil McMenemy, 35, a former engineer who came into nursing three-and-a-half years ago and who is now a psychiatric charge nurse in an adolescent unit at St Albans, said: "I think oursing is said: "We work so hard. I bebecoming more professional ... But ... we use bank and agency nurses because we can't fill the ified, the easier it will get. If the posts when they become vacant. pay was enough more people This isn't good enough."

Gayle Jenkins, 45, had been nursing for many years and works with cancer patients at the West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds. She had taken a diploma in palliative care. She said: "The number of nurses coming group are retiring and that has from school has dropped drastically. They can go into other jobs such as computing which will pay them far more."

Mary Ferguson, 42, works at the Rosie Maternity Hospital in Cambridge as a midwife and took a diploma in midwifery, although she aiready had years of experience.

"You have the young ones coming up and you have to keep

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ER/Gross % AER/Gross %

5.80

up. We are terribly short staffed but I love the job," she said. Helena Ellerton, 46, has been in nursing for 25 years and works at Stoke Mandeville Hosoital. She progressed from enrolled to state registered nurse and took time out to take the three-year diploma. "It's just for professional satisfaction ... I wish they would recognise nurses a little bit more," she said.

Nicola Hewer, 26, is a qualified registered general nurse and requalified to specialise in children's mursing. She works in the accident and emergency department at Addenbrooke's. "It's very stressful in A&E because we don't have any beds. going to improve because young people are going to go to University and will want to make shedloads of money at the end of it. There's a terrible lack

of children's nurses in A&E." Rachel Baker, 26, works on a children's ward at Peterborough District Hospital She came ill because I was so tired. The more nurses that get qualwould come into it."

state registered nurse since respe 1971. She manages an endoscopy unit at Peterborough District Hospital.

She said: "A lot of my age caused the problem but within the next three to four years, with Project 2000 [a graduate training scheme for nurses], the situation will improve."

Jo Simpson, 50, had taken a diploma in palliative care over three years as a modular course. She has been nursing for 28 years. "We have had lots of changes. I expect there will be some more. I certainly hope so."

AER % Gross %

5.55 5.41

5.20 5.08



Some of the 140 nurses who received higher-education diplomas at a graduation ceremony yesterday at Homerton College, Cambridge

Head of casualty unit quits in protest

Carole Crowson, 49, has been ONE OF Britain's most BY STEPHEN GOODWIN resigned as the head of Scotland's busiest accident and emergency department because the shortage of beds

has made his joh impossible. The resignation of Keith Little, a blunt Yorkshireman, as clinical director of the unit at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary has shaken the complacency in Scotland that although NHS hospitals are under pressure, the problems are not nearly as

bad as in England. Demands for a further resignation - that of health minister Sam Galbraith - were made

AER % Gross %

5.18

5.30

4.90

by health service workers at the Edinburgh bospital and by the Scottish National Party. Earlier this week Mr Galbraith, a former neurosurgeon, committed the cardinal ministerial error of

saying there was "no crisis". Dr Little said he accepted there was no "bottomless pit" of money available but maintained that the needs of patients were not being met by resources. He cited examples of patients waiting on trolleys for up to 10 hours. "It is no use struggling to

find a bed two hours after a pa-

AER/Gross % AER/Gross %

be available when they are ERII are working extrem needed," he said yesterday. Dr Little tendered his res-

ignation early in December be-

fore the winter crisis. He will continue to work as a consultant in the hospital's A&E department. A past president of the British Association for Accident

and Emergency Medicine, he pioneered fast-response teams to treat disaster and crash victims on the spot. Dr Little has been forth-

right in warning Tory and Labour ministers about mounting pressure on health ser-

AER % Gross % AER % Gross % Net %

tient arrives. Empty beds must vices in Scotland. "Staff [at the hard, but they have to have their problems recognised and not denied by anyone," he said in a rebuke to Mr Galbraith.

"The people in power have to recognise there is a problem, a difficulty, which is not an exaggeration or make-believe, otherwise staff will become worn down and disillusioned."

He spoke of the "frustration" of having patients waiting on trolleys for "four, six or eight hours" or even "in extreme cases" up to 10 hours, before being found a bed. Tracing the problems back to May last year, he said the underlying cause was a more elderly population

combined with bed closures. "Somehow those in charge have to identify a structure and a strategy which enable acute hospitals like this to have empty beds available to deal with emergency patients on a

daily basis." Mr Galbraith's trenchant denial of any crisis followed a claim by Dr Brian Potter, Scottish secretary of the British Medical Association, that the NHS was in "an unbelievably awful state". Admissions at the



Dr Little: Needs of A&E patients 'not being met'

department surged on Monday, with staff struggling to cope with 188 patients in 10 hours. At the time, Mr Galbraith responded: "The NHS is not in crisis. The message is, we are very busy but we are coping."

Mr Galbraith remained

insistent yesterday that there was "no crisis" and said that no one in the NHS had been gagged. Admitting that Dr Little's resignation was "not helpful", the minister said: "I am sorry that Keith has given up

aware that the position was as serious elsewhere in Scotland. "Certainly my colleagues down south, at a meeting I was at in London [on Thursday]... everyone has major difficulties in processing patients through the emergency services."

Dr Potter said he was not surprised by Dr Little's reasons for resigning. "It is a natural consequence if you keep putting people in a position where they have to cope with intolerable odds." He blamed the private finance initiative, adopted by Labour from Conservatives, for "ripping the heart out of the NHS".

Joe Owens, chief executive of the hospital, claimed measures had been put in place to tackle acute bed availability but these would "take time".

Tom Waterson, Unison representative at the hospital, said Mr Galbraith should change his policies or go. "There ia mas-sive pressure and massive frustration because there is just too much work and not enough staff - we are lurching from crisis to crisis." Alex Salmond, leader of the SNP, said the min-

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		Annual	_			Monthly		_
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£ 25,000+	4.70	4.45	3.56	3.70	3.64	3.75	3.40	2.72
+000,01 3	4.40	4.15	3.32	3,40	3.35	3.15	3.11	2.48
£ 5,000+	3.35	3.10	2.48	2.35	2.33	2.10	2.08	1.66
€ 500+	3.10	2.85	2,28	2.10	2.08	1.85	1.83	1.47

Net *

4.44

		IsunnA				Monthly		
Flexible Savings	Previous	New		Pre	vitus		New	
Account	AER/Gross %	AER/Gross %	Net %	AER %	Gross %	AER %	Gross %	Net %
£ 10,000+	3.05	2.70	2.16	2.80	2.76	2.45	2.42	1.94
٤ 5,000+	2.55	2.20	1.76	2.30	2.28	1.95	1.93	1.95
£ 500+	2.30	2.00	1.60	2.05	2.03	1.75	1.74	1 39
Below £500	0.20	0.20	0.16	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.16

£ 1+	3.55	_	3.50 .	3.55	_	3.50	_	2.80		
Young Savers Accounts	AER %	Jewonz G	ross %	AER 1		New Gross %	1 .	et %		
				Quarterly						
All balances	<u> </u>	6.15		5.80						
TESSA	AER	AER/Tax Free %			AER/Tax Free %					
		Previous				New				
€ 2,500+	4.05	3.08	3.04	3.80	3.75	3.55	3.50	2.80		
£10,000+	4.40	4.15	3.32	4 15	4.09	3.90	3.84	3.08		
£25,000+	4.70	4.45	3.56	4.45	4.38	4.20	4.14	3.31		
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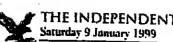
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Gliders over the bridge during the D-Day invasioo

Pegasus bridge to be rebuilt as D-Day memorial

WORK WILL begin in the next few weeks on a new memorial at Pegasus Bridge - the site of the first Allied action of D-Day and one of the most celebrated British actions of the Second

The original bridge, uprooted in 1993 and lying derelict ever since, is to be reconstructed as the pièce de résistance of a £650,000 memorial and museum, The roof will be shaped to look like one of the three British gliders that skidded to a halt nearby, carrying the first Allied soldiers to land on French soil.

The project extends - but is unlikely to end - a tangled saga of local rivalries and misunderstandings, accusations and counter-accusations, which led to the repossession and closure of a smaller museum near the and weed-infested at the end of new, replica bridge 14 mooths ago. It will also fulfil a promise made to British airborne veterans that the original Pegasus Bridge, dumped when the canal was widened six years ago. would be given an honourable

and fitting new home. For the past year a number of groups - local councils in Normandy, British airborne veterans, the British embassy in Paris and a committee of Norman officials and dignithe memory of D-Day - have been working quietly to create a new museum, with the old bridge rebuilt in its grounds.

Although no formal announcement has been made, all administrative and most fundBY JOHN LICHFIELD in Ranville, Normany

ing problems have now heen overcome. Work on the museum - a few yards from the eastern end of the original site of the bridge, in the commune of Ranville, the first French village to be liberated - is expected to start as soon as planning formalities are completed next mooth.

Lieutenant-Colonel Neville Jackson, of Airborne Assault Normandy, the airborne veterans' trust that has been pushing the project, said: "It has been a long haul and we didn't want to say much until we knew that we were more or less sure of succeeding. Now it's 99 per cent sure."

The old bridge lies rusting a lorry park, 300 hundred yards from its original location, on the Caen canal, a few miles inland from the "Sword" invasion beach. Bullet and cannon-shell scars still mark the battleshipgrey girders, beneath which Lieutenant Danny Brotheridge of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, became the first Allied casualty of the invasion at 20 minutes past midnight on 6 June, 1944.

The capture of the bridge, taries, dedicated to honouring and another span a half mile away, across the River Orne, was the first act in a two-month struggle by British and Canadian forces in the 6th Airborne Division to protect the critical eastern flank of the D-Day beaches from German counter-

attack. Failure could have led to the entire invasion being thrown back into the sea.

Recently, the bridge has become the object of a second, less fateful, but widely publicised battle. Arlette Gondrée-Pritchett, 57, proprietor of a celebrated cafe beside the hridge site, and part of the first family in France to be liberated, owned the land on which the original museum was huilt, She took eviction action, which closed the memorial, in October 1997 after a series of illtempered squabbles, including one shoving match in which

by the curator.

Mrs Gondree-Pritchett then announced plans to expand a private museum in her own café and virulently opposed the idea of a new memorial, on the other side of the canal, claiming it would turn the area into a "theme park". She was supported by some British veterans of Normandy, including the former prime minister Sir Edward Heath.

She was, however, equally virulently opposed by other airborne veterans, including Major John Howard, 84, the man who led the attack on Pegasus Bridge. Patient diplomacy by British

government officials and the airborne veterans' leaders in recent months has attempted to persuade Mrs Gondrée-Pritchett to adopt a more neutral attitude to the new museum. British officials believe that the new visitors attracted by the

memorial will belp, rather than hinder, Mrs Gondree-Pritchett's plans to expand the family museum at her cafe.

Mrs Gondree-Pritchett remains deeply suspicious of the new project, although she has no plans to take formal moves to oppose it. In England, where she lives in winter, she said: "I still have grave doubts about this idea. I fear that this is going to develop into a kind of Disneyland of D-Day. The old hridge is now just a corpse. Restoring it on a new site has no significance whatsoever. The only truly bistoric, unchanged site left is my café." sbe was pushed over a fence

Many British veterans - they claim to be the majority of survivors of the battles on the eastern flank of D-Day - share Mrs Gondrée-Pritchett's concerns. Peter Parnwell, 73, who fought with the Highland Division and crossed the bridge "30 or so times in 1944" supports a rival plan to bring the old bridge to a D-Day memorial site in Britain. "On the surface, it sounds as if this project has got further than we believed it would," he said. "But we've heard it all before. I'm still very concerned that the old bridge would not be properly

displayed or maintained on this

The British embassy in Paris has no such concerns. Brigadier Andrew Gadsby, the military attaché, has been heavily involved, with the Ambassador, Sir Michael Jay, in smoothing the path for the new museum. He said: "The ambassador believes that this project will provide a fitting memorial for those who sacrificed their lives in perhaps the most crucial battle in the whole Normandy campaign. It is no exaggeration to say that, if the eastern flank had given way, the Germans could have rolled up the entire invasion, extending the war for another two to three years, even, conceivably changing its outcome.

"At the same time, we believe



The Pegasus bridge, which was uprooted six years ago and lies rusting in a lorry park 300 yards from its original location, is to be given a new home

that the new museum is not a

threat to Mrs Gondree-Pritch-

ett, whom we wish well. We be-

lieve that the two projects will

eventually work in complete

around £400.000 for the muse-

um is expected to be an-

nounced soon by the Calvados

and Basse-Normandie coun-

cils. A contribution of £250,000

will be made by the locally run

Comité du Déharquement,

which operated the original

museum on the site. The

Comité will run the new.

help from the airborne veter-

fered to level the site free.

Royal Engineers are expected

ans' trust.

Local government funding of

Brian Harris



Brigadier Andrew Gadsby

glider-shaped memorial, with and moving it a couple of bundred yards to its permanent resting place. Airborne Assault A British company has of-Normandy, which is dedicated to preserving the memory of the eastern flank campaign, to undertake most of the work hopes to raise up to another of restoring Pegasus Bridge £400,000 from British sources.

to help to equip the museum. "There is now little doubt that the museum will happen, even without British money said Lt-Col Jackson, a retired territorial airborne officer living in Normandy, who has been the trust's main ambassador and negotiator in France.

"But it is important, psychologically and morally, that it should be seen to he supported by Britisb as well as French cash. And the more money we have, the better equipped and the more advanced the museum will be,"

Pegasus Bridge, some 40 metres long, will be re-erected in its entirety in front of the picture windows of the main museum hall, which will bouse 8,000 artefacts and mementoes from June 1944. The exhibits and videos will tell the story of

the capture of the bridge but also the less well-known saga of the two-month battle by the 6th Airborne Division to seize and hold the ridge to the east and defend the D-Day landings from vigorous German counterattacks, More than 1,000 men of the 6th Airborne - whose average age was 20 - died in these battles.

The hope is to open the museum with a drop by British paratroopers, and maybe a royal visit, on or just before 6 June next year.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the project should send inquiries or any donations to: The Pegasus Memorc/o Airborne Assault Normandy Trust, Parachute Regiment Headquarters. Browning Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BU.



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of their arrest... did not pose a sufficient threat to public confidence or the proper conduct of meetings to justify immediate suspension". It added, however, that "the matter will be kept under review". When Osborne, Aspell and

year, their licences were imganised Crime group at Scotland Yard seem to be running race tests, race fixing is very dif- to do in this situation is not to ficult to detect. If a group of draw conclusions".

Top jockeys questioned over race-fixing and doping claims

TWO OF Britain's senior jock- By GREG WOOD eys, Ray Cochrane and Graham Bradley, were arrested yesterday in connection with inquiries by the Metropolitan Police into allegations of horse doping and race-fixing.

Derby on Kahyasi in 1988, and Bradley, a Cheltenham Gold Cup winner on Bregawn in 1983, were questioned at Charing Cross police station, in central London Charlie Brooks, until recently a leading trainer and frequent employer of Bradley, also attended the police station yesterday. His solicitor said later that he had done so voluntarily to offer his assistance, and that Brooks had "never at any stage participated in any activities which would contravene the

rules of racing". The arrests bring to five the number of jockeys questioned by police during the course of a 22month investigation. Three Na-

A French architect's impression of the new memorial with its glider-shaped roof

racade Sud/Est

tional Hunt jockeys, Dean Gallagher, Leighton Aspell and Jamie Osborne, were arrested in January 1998, although both Aspell and Osborne have been Cochrane, who won the told that they will not face charges. Gallagher and five other men are bailed to reappear

at Charing Cross on 10 March. Both Bradley, 38, and Cochrane, 41, who is the first Flat jockey to be arrested, are among the most familiar names to punters in Britain's betting shops. As well as the Cheltenham Gold Cup, Bradley has ridden the winners of the King George VI Chase and Hennessy Gold Cup, while Cochrane's record includes success in the Oaks, the Irish

Derby and the 1,000 Guineas. The investigation was initiated by the Jockey Club, which administers the Rules of Racing, after two horses tested

who ran at Exeter on 7 March, and Lively Knight, a runner at Plumpton on 29 March, were strongly fancied for their races, but ran poorly. Avanti Express was 5-4 second-favourite for a hurdle race, while Lively Knight, who started at odds of 1-7 (7-1 on) but finished second of three runners in a steeplechase, was one of the hottest favourites of the year. Subsequent dope tests showed that both had been given Acetyl-

promazine, a fast-acting tranquilliser, probably no more than half an hour before their races. The Jockey Club called in the and soon afterwards the scope of the investigation was widened to include possible race-fixing. Unlike doping, which will almost certainly be uncovered by post-

all that the public will see is another winning favourite. In a statement yesterday afternoon, the Jockey Club, while not referring to the jockeys by name, said that "the mere fact

Gallagher were arrested last mediately suspended, only to be Metropolitan Police in May 1997, restored a week later Osborne said yesterday that "the Ora little bit out of control and what I should urge everybody

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OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS:

A twisted view of man and his place

WHICH IS the most provincial city in Britain? Or, to put it more precisely, the inhabitants of which city in Britain know least about any other city or place in Britain? My money would be on London. This is not a particularly new thought, but it came out for another spin on its bike on Wednesday when the front-page of The Independent advertised Deborah Orr's fine new column inside the paper - that day about Scottish land reform - with the words: Haway the lairds.

A puzzle. The piece was about Scotland "Haway" is a Tyneside expression of encouragement, the traditional shout of foothall crowds to Newcastle United players ("Haway the lads, come on boys!"), and unknown north of the Tweed. Even as a piece of world-play immune from geography and dialect, it did not make much sense. Ms Orr's piece was an anti-laird cry from the opposite terraces "Stick it to those feudal superiors, break their legs!").

At lunch that day, dipping bread into the olive oil, I was grumhling about this metropolitan solecism - grumhling mildly pedantically and I have no doubt irritatingly - to three colleagues from the Granta office (in London), when the subject changed to Peter Mandelson, as it often does, and how many bouses you could buy in Mr Mandelson's Hartlepool consiller tay for the price of his own in Notting Hill. I wondered if we were all quite sure where Hartlepool was. Nobody knew. "Up north"

was the closest they could get. But west coast, east coast, somewhere in the middle? Nobody knew.

North or south of Newcastle, east or west of Manchester, north or south of York? Nobody knew.

Well, have a guess then. Only one taker for this: "I always imagined it was near

Liverpool. My colleagues are clever people, endowed with curiosity, educated at England's most ancient universities, and much more knowledgeable than I am about many things. The structuralism of Roland Barthes, the complete works of

S S C STED W

NOTEBOOK



George Eliot, the American musical, the Russian novel they could give me a hiding in any of these. But they were all raised south of the Wash. "The North" to them was a mist that fell over the country somewhere about Milton Keynes and receded only on the approach to Iceland.

The spatial relationship of Sheffield to Leeds. Inverness to Aberdeen, Newcastle to Middlesbrough, all were as mysterious to them as the source of the Nile would have been to a European explorer circa 1850.

Is there a reverse ignorance? I do not think so. If you grow up in the North, you learn about the South for all kinds of reasons. London is there, the newspapers and television come from there, it is the place between you and continental Europe. You need often to go to it or through it. You cannot escape it. There are compensations,

though, for coming from the must, of which a well-lounded smugness about southern provinciality is certainly one. Northern readers with southern partners, friends and celleagues may like to reaffirm their superiority with the help of a blank sketch of Britain. Ask them if they can take their pens and mark the location of Hartlepool, and also Barrow, Jarrow and Dundee.

I wish I could offer a prize for the closest results, a sort of spot-the-northern-ball competition. Instead, bow about this. Name the authors of The Man from the North, North and South, Northward Hoe, Our Friends in the North, All Points North. The first reader's letter which does this successfully wins for its writer a second-class return to the Mandelson constituency and a

Hartlepool: 'When the subject changed to Mr Mandelson's constituency... "Up north" was the closest anyone could get Ted Ditchburn handshake with the Member and bas just been released by

bimself, if you can find him there (Oh, all right, a bottle of

THIS WEEK, more than 20 years after his death, Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein was "revealed" as an imperialist and racist. In 1947, the field marshal made a two-month tour of Africa and then submitted his Grand Design for the continent in a secret report to the prime minister, Clement Altlee, which was embarrassing to the government even at the time

the Public Record Office under the 50-year-rule. Montgomery wanted to per-

petuate and strengthen white rule in Africa, to suppress communist-inspired independence movements, and to attract a new breed of energetic white settler to replace the indolent, over-servanted class who were already there.

The sentence in his report that has attracted most publicity runs: "There will he many people in the UK who will oppose such a plan on the grounds that the African will suffer; there is no reason

whatever wby he should suffer; and in any case he is a complete savage and is quite incapable of developing the country himself."

According to some newsaper pieces, these thoughts have delivered a "body-blow" Montgomery's public standing. Lord Chalfont, one of his biographers, thinks that his reputation has been "irredeemably damaged... I find very disappointing and depressing".

This is surely wrong. Whatever his military skills, Montgomery was well known as an unpleasant man (as Lord Chal-

font concedes; and prone to what is now known as robust language, to show just what a robust little chap he was. But, more than that, do we really imagine that his views, perhaps couched a little more circumspectly, were so remarkably uncommon among men of his generation 50 years

Montgomery was born in 1887. For at least the first half of his life, the superiority of the white race was a given and, as an ideology, probably reached its peak during his adolescence. When Montgomery was 11, Rudyard Kipling was urg-

ing the United States to "pick

up the white man's hurden,

send forth the best ye breed".

Even 40 years later, the idea that non-white colonies could successfully fend for themselves was still relatively rare. In 1941, a celebrated English writer wrote of India that without British protection and administration it was "hardly eveo capable of feeding Itself"; that it depended on a framework of British technical experts who "could not be replaced within five or ten years"; that its old British administrators needed to be retired in favour of younger and

more energetic men (but still Britons). If Britain pulled out, this writer wrote, the result for India would simply be recolonisation by Germany, Russia or Japan and "a series of enormous famines which would kill millions of people within a few years".

The writer? George Orwell, in one of his most famous essays, "The Lion and the Unicorn". This is not to equate Orwell with Montgomery. Orwell believed that India should be offered independence, which it would wisely decline and opt instead for partnership in a new kind of equal empire.

Still, he did not get it right. India opted for full independence only six years later, and managed to run itself at least no less successfully than under British rule. And although be was correct about a future starvation - a great famine did come to Bengal two years late - the millions it killed died because of Britisb rather than Japanese maladministration.

I HAVE a borrowed book at home that a friend hought recently from a second-hand shop. It contains magnificent photographic plates, which show the benign, progressive influence of Britain in every corner of the world.

Underneath a picture of some wigwams in Canada, the caption says; "Nothing but their [the natives'] inherent incapacity prevents their attaining complete equality with the white race. But the disability exists, and all that the most philanthropic can hope for the native races of America is their gentle diminution, followed by their peaceful extinction."

The book was published in 1895. Montgomery would have been eight. The true sbock of the Montgomery disclosure is that it seems to have caused a shock at all. It betrays an alarming ahistorical notion of whom we have been and what many of our forefathers believed.

A JOKE just in by electronic mail from Delhi. Q: What do they call the Indian version of Viagra? A: The God of Small

One in six farms to go organic within decade'

in Britain, with the acreage o land kept free of fertilisers and pesticides doubling in one year.

However, there is unlikely to be any decrease in the relatively high prices of organic foods for consumers - at least not for sev-

farming, told a conference yesterday that one in six farms could be organic by 2010.

Conventional farming with chemicals was mired in recession while the Government had boosted the payment it gives farmers to convert to organic methods from £250 per hectare to £450. At the same time, there was such a strong demand for

BY NICHOLAS SCHOON

organic foods that supermarkets had to import the bulk of what they sold from abroad. Dr Lampkin said many farmers feared that as organ-

ic produce moves into the mainstream, it would no longer Dr Nie Langhta, a kading fetch premium prices. Flower-British authority on organic er, he believed it would continue to be relatively expensive for several years due to strong growth in demand. Dr Lampkin, of the Univer-

sity of Wales, Aberystwyth, said Britain, which has an estimated 1,500 organic farmers, now had one of the fastest growth rates of organic farming in Europe. Currently, one per cent of the total farm acreage is or-

IN BRIEF

Meningitis alert for youth football

YOUNG FOOTBALLERS were warned yesterday not to share water bottles during games this weekend to cut the risk of spreading meningitis. Fear of the virus being

spread by saliva in drinks hottles has prompted the GT

Football League to issue the warning to its 450 teams in

A PAEDOPHILE who charmed the parents of his victims into

trusting him was jailed for 15 years yesterday at the Old

Bailey for abusing 10 boys over 20 years. Air-traffic controller Anthony Bridger, 52, who surfed the Internet for

pornography, was caught when Surrey Police raided his home and seized computer equipment and printouts.

Boys questioned on rape attempt

TWO BOYS aged 12 and another of 11 were questioned by

police in connection with the alleged attempted rape of a

girl aged six. The boys were arrested on Monday and

released on police bail pending further inquiries. The

alleged incident happened in south Reading, Berkshire.

Teacher's murder appeal granted

THE DEPUTY headmaster jailed for life for murdering his foster daughter is to be allowed to appeal against his conviction. Sion Jenkins, 40, was convicted last July of

bludgeoning Billie-Jo Jenkins, 13, at the family home in Hastings. No date has been set for the appeal.

Heart monitors for BA planes

BRITISH AIRWAYS will become the first international

airline to install heart monitors and cardiac resuscitation devices on all of its aircraft, it said yesterday. The airline

plans to fit the first monitors on long-haut planes in April.

South Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

Paedophile jailed for 15 years

ganic but over the next decade this could rise to 15 per cent. Sales of produce across the

European Union were worth about £4bn a year, Dr Lampkin told the National Conference on Organic Food and Farming in Cirencester Glos.

Dr Jules Pretty of the University of Easer and that chemical-free farming could feed the globe's entire population of 10 billion people in the next century. His research, covering 63 developing nations, had found there were already 2 million farmers who had used organic techniques to at least double

their crop production. Many of them had abandoned the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides because

them. Yet, from India to Brazil, they had still found ways of doubling or even trebling yields.

"We're no longer talking about techniques used experimentally," he said. Dr Pretty, director of his

university's Centre for Environment and Society, gave the example of the velvet bean, grown in maize fields in Honduras and Guatemala. The bean has raised maize vields from 800kg per hectare to two tonnes - approaching the yields obtained by intensive farming in Europe. The bean turns nitrogen in the air into nitrate fertiliser in the soil. Once fully grown, it is cut down and al lowed to rot - making compost.

Britain is e-mail capital of Europe

BRITONS SEND more e-mails to By CLARE GARNER friends and colleagues than any other nation in Europe.

A survey has found that more users keep in contact with their friends via e-mail compared with the European average of 34 per cent. Italians are the least

keen on communicating elec-

tronically (18 per cent).

BMRB International, a market research company, asked having used the world wide web. 12,000 adults across Europe While Britons emerged as the most enthusiastic e-mail users Scandinavians are the biggest users of the Net

More than half of the Swedish

population, nearly half of Finns and 46 per cent of Danes said than 50 per cent of UK Internet they had used the Internet, compared with just under a third of the British population as a whole. In France and Belgium a quarter of the population had used the Net, and in Germany and Spain a fifth. The Italians came last, with only 19 per cent

For eight of the twelve counabout their Internet habits. tries surveyed, e-mailing was the most popular Net activity, beating banking, which itself is more popular than on-line shopping. Leading article,

FERGAL KEANE



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Quoting reference NEW YEAR 6

Politics: After three weeks of government turmoil and division, The Independent revisits the voters of Middle England who deserted the Tories at the last election



Voted Lahour. I would not vote for anybody now. I voted for Blair because he seemed ... decent but now he has let me down, I never expected schools would be shut down under Labour. That is not what was promised during

the election campaign."



Andrew Osciak, 45, Voted Labour. There is no leadership in the Tory party and you never hear of them. They seem irrelevant. There should be more consensus among

problems facing the country

parties so that the big



Susan Lovett, 41, Voted Conservative.

Blair and his colleagues are made a fiasco out of being in government. The only good policy has been on Europe. because I agreed with Major's approach that we should wait and see whether we enter the single currency."



Craig Coates, 40 Clerk of works. Voted Labour. "What happened to all their pledges on health and education? I am now very sceptical about politicians and have lost interest. Nothing significant has changed in this country since they have come into



self-employed. Voted Labour. "I will wait two, three years before I judge New Latiour's record. It will take time to turn around health and education. It is a shame about the resignations ... but perhaps that has been part of British politics for the past 20 years."



Lionel Baird, 54 a paramedic. Voted Conservative. Mr Baird said that the back-biting and knife stabbing between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor, Gordon Brown has been the cause of a great deal of harm to the country at a time when the NHS was deteriorating.

can be dealt with properly. We want strong leadership" Mondeoland turns against 'weak and divided' Labour

THE LABOUR PARTY faces an By SARAH SCHAEFER uphill struggle to hang on to the support of thousands of middle England voters who deserted the Conservatives and voted Tony Blair into power in 1997.

This week we returned to the west Midlands to see how voters in Redditch, Worcestershire - The Independent's geoeral election panel of "Mondeo men and women" - felt about Mr Blair and his party at the end of three weeks of upheaval, resignation and division in the Government.

And the answer is not much. They are disillusioned, think that the Government is behaving no differently to the Tories and many would not vote

a general election tomorrow as their natural party of choice. because "politicians are just as bad as each other. "They all have skeletons in

their closet. Before the election Labour said we could trust them and they would be open and trustworthy.

"They're not as bad as the

Political Reporter

year and a half and not 18 years. It makes them look weak and divided. Tony Blair has let me down," he said.

Mr Redfern, who describes himself as "one of Thatcher's children", is also disappointed with the present Government's record on education. My seven-year-old son

Matthew's school may get closed down under a Labour government that chose education as one of their key pledges. So far, Tony Blair has not done anything that he promised."

When Mr Blair campaigned during the 1997 general elecabour again. tion, his efforts were focused on Mark Redfern, 31, an engition the likes of Mr Redfern – a relneer, is typical of the panel atively small group of middle Blair in the end" and stock with when he says he would not want class, middle England voters, o vote for anyone if there was who had abandoned Labour-

He told how, in the 1992 general election, he had met a man on a Midlands housing estate washing his Ford Sierra who had become a Tory because he now owned his own house and was self-employed. The man, he said, made Mr Tories but then Labour has Blair realise that his party only heen in Government for a would never win power without

changed. It was among people like him, who by 1997 were more likely to be driving Ford Moodeos, that The Independent established its general election panel of disaffected Tory voters preparing to switch

On 1 May 1997 a 34-year-old former teacher, Jacqui Smith, won Redditch for the Labour party with a majority of 6.125 and a swing from the Tories of more than 3 per ceot. The seat had been 44th on Labour's target list. At the time, voters said they had switched to Labour because they "needed a change", but four of our twelve panellists "could not bring themselves to vote for Tony

the Conservatives. Linda Middleton, works in a supermarket, echoed Mr Redfern's concern about recent splits within the Government. "It is disgusting. Our livelihood is in their hands and they are preoccupied with bickering and arguing. They are

hardly the people's party.' She also accuses Mr Blair of having reintroduced class hierarchy into the educatioo pulled from underneath its

convincing the likes of the system by abolishing student feet," Mr Jones, now self-Sierra owner that Labour had grants. "He really does oot employed said. grants. "He really does oot employed said. care about ordinary folk but has taken all the help we had away

> Another switcher, Craig Coates, 30, a clerk of works, added: "I would not vote for anybody at the moment because politicians are in the game for what they can get for themselves. We want to hear more about health and education and are fed up with scandals."

There has been general discontent among the panellists with the decision to give the Bank of England independence, although their criticism was tempered by this week's renewed fall in interest rates.

However, none of those who switched to Labour blame the Government for the looming economic storm clouds. Roger Jones, 44, who was made redundant from his job as a goods invoice manager at Rover's Loogbridge plant last October, said the present difficulties had been "inevitable".

"They have inherited a lot of problems from the Tories and it has been inevitable for several years that the British car industry would have the carpet

But while many of the panellists feel let down by the promises of a fresh start and more open government, none of them had considered going back to the Conservatives at the next election. Andrew Osciak, 45, a supervisor, summed up their view when he said the Tories had disappeared from the political radar. "There is no leadership in the present Tory

them, they seem irrelevant." Approving of the increased co-operation between Labour and the Liberal Democrats, he added: "There should be more consensus among parties, perhaps even a coalition so that the hig problems facing this country can be dealt with properly.

party and you never hear of

We want strong leadership." Those panellists who voted for the Tories in 1997 feel vindicated by the upheavals in the Government during recent weeks. Lionel Baird, 54, a paramedic, said the "back-biting and knife-stabbing" between Mr Blair and the Chancellor, Gordoo Brown, was harming the country at a time when the

NHS was deteriorating. Susan Lovett, 41, a housewife, argued that reports about leaks and spin-doctors showed how "power mad" Mr Blair and his colleagues were.

"This is not what those who voted for Tony Blair bargained for and Peter Mandelson's resignation may as well be the end of New Labour. They pretended to be different from the Tories but they are just the same and have not actually delivered on anything they set out to do."

But she added: "The Tories have completely lost their direction, the only party that offers proper opposition is the Liberal Democrats."

While she is more critical than she was of New Labour 18 months ago, Europe is one area where Mrs Lovett agrees with Mr Blair.

"The Government is right in that they want to wait and see Conservatives still seem too divided over Europe and people don't have extreme views on the matter."

The message of the panel is clear Mr Blair's New Labour has so far disappointed and another victory in Mondeoland is anything but guaranteed. The battle for the next general election has begun.

The Big Mac Generation finds Tony lacks taste

BEFORE THE election, they were dubbed the Big Mac Generation, hecause when they were born in the late Seventies the ubiquitous hamburger had just started to appear on

Britain's high streets. Having grown up knowing life only under the Conservatives, they were first-time voters when Tony Blair won his historic landslide victory in

May 1997. At the time, many first-time voters in Redditch were undecided who they would vote for oo polling day but a typical plea was that politicians should "stop arguing, try to agree more and offer something to-

The Independent went back to its election panel of young voters in the town to find out

By Sarah Schaefer

whether their views oo Westminster had changed. Four of the panellists, still living in the mid-Worcestershire constituency, voted Conservative, three did not vote and three supported Labour.

Michelle Oldfield, 20, a busioess student at Astoo University, followed family tradition when she decided to vote for the Tories in 1997.

While she thinks Tooy Blair is "very, very good", New Labour as a whole has failed to

The in-fighting of the past mooth is a great shame, because it seems that Tony Blair has not the complete backing of his Cabinet. He seems to be a bit of a one-man band at the mo-



Paul Knell, 19, student Voted Liberal Democrat.

Tony Blair is a complete hypocrite. First he tells everyone all day long about the importance of education and then his children miss school because they are on holiday with him In the Seychelles. All we ever hear about is leaks and spin-doctors."

ment." Although most of the

panellists are not personally af-

fected by the Government's

reform of higher education,

they are unified in criticism of

the abolition of student grants.

My brother will have to pay

£1,000 a year in tuition fees: it

just does not seem fair that this

Government is making educa-

tioo elitist," Ms Oldfield said.

Iain Farquhar, 19, a sports-

science student at Edinburgh



Michelle Oldfield, 20, business student, Aston University, Voted Conservative.

Tony Blair has not the complete backing of his Cabinet. I think a lot of people are still worried about the Labour Party and so far they have not done anything outstanding to change their minds."



Rachel Putt, 20, a receptionist

Voted Tory. She disliked "Cool Britannia" and invitations for pop groups such as Oasis to 10 Downing Street. The whole idea was a flop. Tony Blair should stop trying to please young people, because it is quite nauseating and will not win any votes."

University, did not vote at the "The whole idea was a flop. last election because he Tony Blair should stop trying to thought Mr Blair's proposals lease young people, because were no more than another it is quite nauseating and will version of the Tories' plans. "It is sad that there has The biggest disappointment among the panel has been the been no real difference in their policies and politicians are just

Richard Watson, 21, a hu-

manities student at Glamorgan

lack of any visible change by the arguing as they were before. Conservative Party since They even have the same scan-Labour came into office.

Minister goes east to cut flow of refugees

Mike O'Brien, will fly to Eastern Europe tomorrow for a series of urgent talks aimed at stemming the flow of gypsy asylumseekers into Britain.

During a five-day tour of Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Poland, Mr O'Brien will urge the three Eastern European states to improve their records on race relations.

Home Affairs Correspondent

the Roma refugees who have sought asylum over the past year have been the victims of discrimination in the countries they have fled.

But Mr O'Brien said that in almost all cases it had been decided they did not qualify for asylum under the Refugee Con-Britain believes that many of vention of 1951 because they

had not individually been the victims of persecution.

He said: "What we cannot do is have a situation where, because there is discrimination not being tackled in other countries, people are coming over to

Britain to avoid discrimination." During his visit, Mr O'Brien will meet ministers, police chiefs and Roma groups. Home Office staff will give advice oo

how Britain handles its race re-

problems the same way that other countries have to deal with theirs," said Mr O'Brien, although he admitted Britain could oot be "holier than though", particularly in light of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry.

University, who voted Labour,

agreed. There was oo talk of

tuition fees before the last gen-

· eral election, otherwise most

young people would have never

Nor is there much warmth

for New Labour's rebranding of

Cool Britannia and invitations

for pop groups such as Oasis to

tionist, who voted Tory, said it

Rachel Puti, 20, a recep-

voted for them."

The oumbers of gypsy asylum-seekers are still fairly small. Only 1,200 asylum applications were made from Slovakia and the Czech Republic

in the first 10 mooths of last year, compared with nearly 6,000 from former Yugoslavia. But Mr O'Brien said the

may have even dissuaded

young people from voting for

the party in future.

not win any votes."

costs of each applicant were significant. "They claim asylum and then seek to access local authority support and the benefits system. They are theo into the appeals system with lots of legal costs associated." Britain has been encouraged

by the commitments to race

equality given by the new governments in both the Czech Republic and Slovakia. But Mr O'Brien said oeither was likely to be allowed to join the European Union while poor race re-

lations forced people to fiee. Anne Thomas, of the Refugee Council, who recently went on a fact-finding mission to the Czech Republic, said the Roma were the victims of "discrimination on a massive scale".

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EPENDENT 9 January 1999

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Blunkett prepares for school sell-off

ADVERTISEMENTS ARE pub. BY JUDITH JUDD lished by the Government today for private firms to take over education services from local authorities.

David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, who announced the unprecedented step yesterday, made clear that if a council's services were all failed by inspectors, all might be contracted out.

Individual contracts to run the Government's numeracy and literacy strategies, council budgets and to help failing schools could be worth millions of pounds.

Firms such as the Nord Anglia education consultants, the American-basen Edison Project and the non-profit-making Cfbt education services have already put in bids to run a failing Surrey school and are expected to respond to national newspaper advertisements for a list of governmentapproved contractors.

So far no local education authority has been threatened with new government powers of intervention but ministers are known to be concerned about Hackney, in east London, failed by inspectors more than

a year ago. In a speech which referred repeatedly to the New Labour agenda of "modernisation and reform", Mr Blunkett told the North of England Education Conference in Sunderland: Where there is consistent failure to deliver adequate services we will intervene. If local education authorities [LEAs] have been doing it badly and doing it badly for a long time, we will

Education Editor

transform the service in the interests of children and par ents, who deserve better."

Mr Blunkett, whose children went to an inner-city Sheffield comprehensive, said people in poor local education authorities could not afford to buy their way out through private education or by moving house, "Mostly it is in the disadvantaged areas that pupils bave had a lousy deal for far too long."

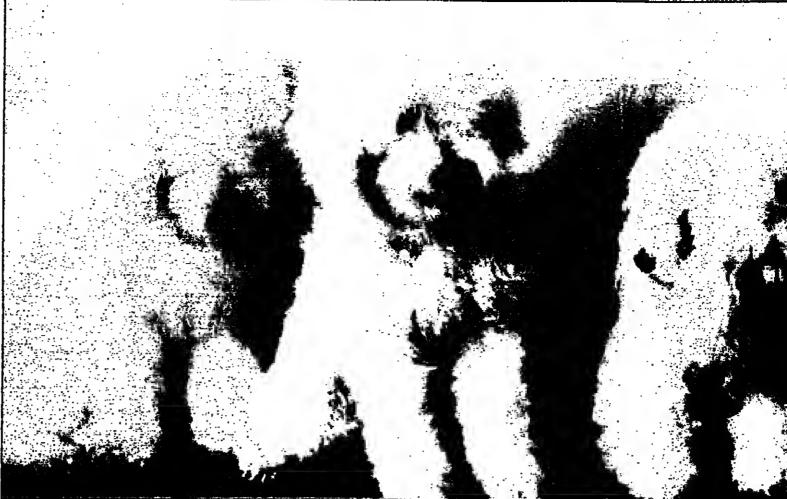
His announcement angered teachers. Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said: The Conservatives would never have dared to privatise education by bringing in firms operating for profit

"Serious under-performance demands serious action but it is not acceptable for private companies to profit from a child's state education."

Councils whose services are found to be failing will have to produce an action plan and accept a private contractor chosen by the Government. Voluntary organisations and neighbouring LEAs will also be able to bid for contracts.

Mr Blunkett dismissed as "very silly" suggestions by council leaders that companies such as Virgin Trains would be invited to improve

And he denied there was a rift between himself and the Prime Minister over local authorities. "He and I are absolutely committed to go on with this transformation.



For £55, dog owners can change their dog's coat from a natural shade to a lurid pink, red or yellow

RSPCA attacks dyed-dog craze

By DARIUS SANAI

THE FOOTPATHS of suburbia are being graced with an increasing number of barking, hairy creatures in bues from magenta to purple. Yes, dog

dyeing is in vogue. Carole Flatt, one of the country's leading exponents of the art, said she is not sure what's behind the craze, but it may have its origins in Manhattan, where in November Vanity Fair magazine published a picture of Monica Lewinsky bolding a pink poodle. But not every owner can bring a dog in to her grooming salon and expect it to emerge, £55 later, in crimson. The dog has to be of an extro-

vert temperament," she said. The RSPCA is unamused by the trend. A spokeswoman said: "It eocourages people to view animals as fashion accessories and not respect them as pets. Dogs are there to be valued, not made fun of."

the car in front is a

Price of chips soars after rain

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THE COST of potatoes has more than doubled because of last

year's wet weather. The Britisb Potato Council (BPC) said yesterday that the average farm gate cost of a tonne of spuds had risen from £78 to £167 in 12 months. Much of last year's harvest was wrecked by beavy rainfall at

crucial times of the year. The price rise will prompt fears among millions of fishand-chips aficionados that one of the country's favourite meals

may no longer be a bargain. A spokesman for the BPC said: "Chip shops like to use Maris Pipers, which last year cost anything from £35 to £90 a tonne as they left the farm. This year a tonne costs anything between £80 and £230 depending on the quality.

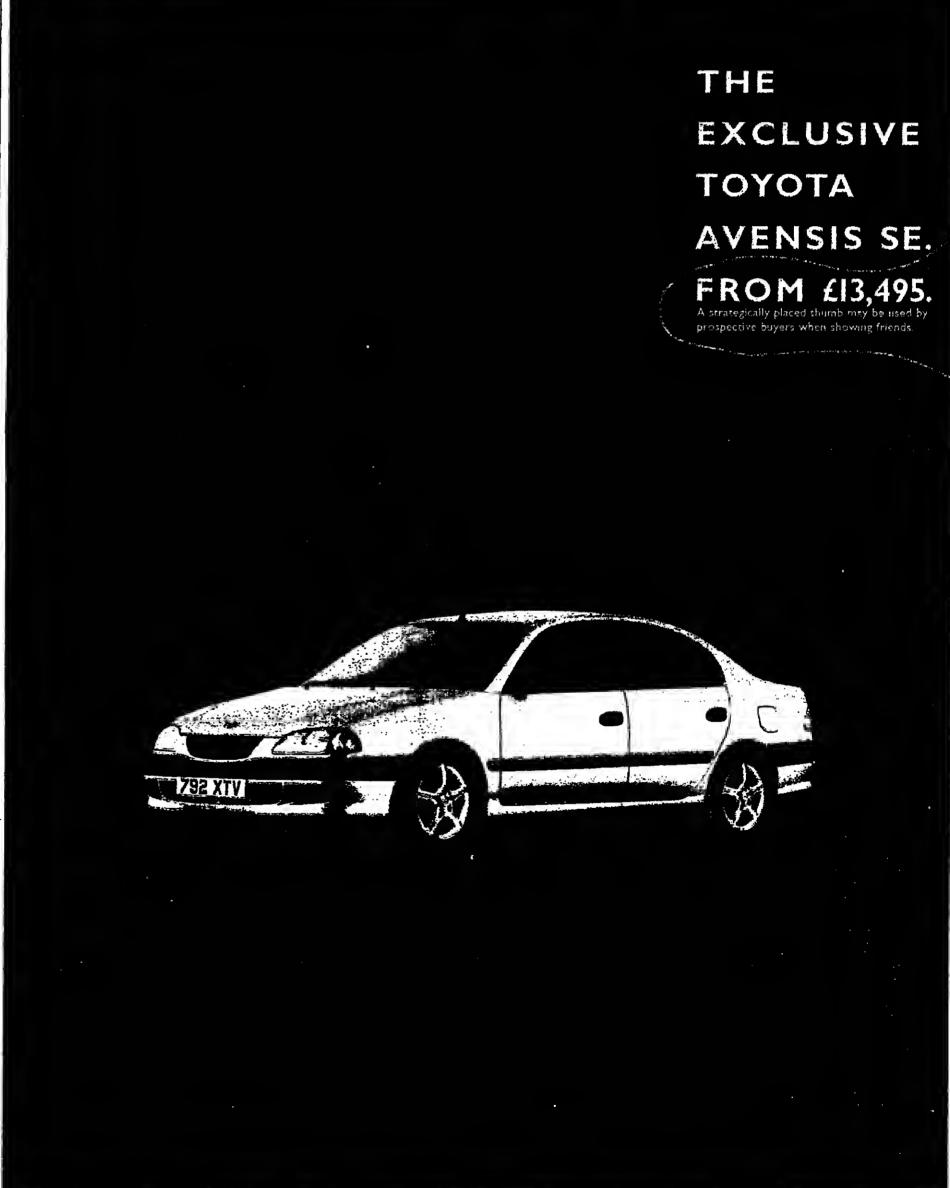
: "It was a wet spring and many potatoes were planted later on than usual. There was a lot of rain during the growing season, and the low temperaBy LINUS GREGORIADIS

tures also caused problems for farmers." The total potato yield last year was 6.2 million tonnes compared with 6.8 million tonnes in 1997, said the BPC.

Anne Kirk, general secre tary of the National Federation of Fish Fryers, said the price rise was a problem for the country's 8.500 fish-and-chip shops, but denied there was a crisis. She said: "Chip shop owners will have realised the price of potatoes has gone up and one or two have al-

ready raised their own prices." But she added: "Although the prices at the moment are high, they are not nearly as high as in 1995 when a bag of potatoes cost around £13.

Fish-and-chip shops use 10 per cent of UK potato yield, and customers eat 30 million portions of chips a year. The price rises come just weeks before National Chip Week, which begins on 15 February.



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Fixed-rate borrowers losing out

THOUSANDS OF hapless bor-rowers who took out fixed mort-Personal Finance Editor gages two or three years ago at emingly advantageous rates face the prospect of vastly higher monthly payments than the deals that are available today.

The sudden fall in base rates in the past three months, which on Thursday saw a further rate loan is currently costing an base rate cut to 6 per cent, has also led to a drop of about 1.5 points in the cost of a variable mortgage. This has left stranded many borrowers who tried to gamble on future interest

Among the worst-affected borrowers are the many who opted for fixed rates between 1995 and the general election in May 1997. Before this, the pegged at 7.65 per cent - a remoney markets assumed that the election of a Labour gov-ernment would lead to higher They are now discovering that long-term interest rates.

mortgages, heavily touted by even move to their own mortsome lenders at the time, were priced accordingly. In July 1995, for example, Abbey National of-tion penalties. An unnamed fered a fixed-rate mortgage at mortgage broker said yester-8.75 per cent, expiring in August day: "To be honest, I am con-

2000. Those who took that loan would now be paying 1.3 points more than a variable rate deal through Nationwide Building Society. On a £100,000 interestonly loan, that means the fixedextra £140 a month.

At the Halifax, a five-year fixed mortgage in November 1996 was pegged at 8.55 per cent. Those who took one out are now paying £666 a month on a £100,000 loan, compared with the bank's current variable rate of £602 a month.

In May 1997, five-year deals for first-time borrowers were payment of £618 a month for they cannot switch to a better Five-year and longer-term deal with another lender - or gage provider's variable rate because of the heavy redemp-

ty of some people. They think a building society account is too risky, yet are willing to take a punt on long-term interest rates like some Liffe [London International Financial Futures Exchange] barrow-boy dealer. Fixed-rate mortgages are there

for security, not to gamble on."
Ray Boulger, technical manager at John Charcol, the UK's largest mortgage hroker, said: "One thing to remember is that fixed rates varied widely, even at their most expensive point. Anyone who took independent advice on their loan should still be okay because we were able to recommend the cheapest loans at any time. Moreover, we were also advising people against taking out longer-term fixes because they were too expensive."

A Halifax spokeswoman said: "There will be some people who took a loan out in that period who will find themselves paying considerably more now But for a considerable period, when rates were higher, they actually gained."



Dyed horse tails being combed at John Boyd Textiles, Britain's last horse hair fabric factory, which is fighting to stop its mill at Castle Cary, Somerset, being turned into flats. Its looms, which weave fabric to restore Victorian upholstery, were installed in 1872 Christopher Jones

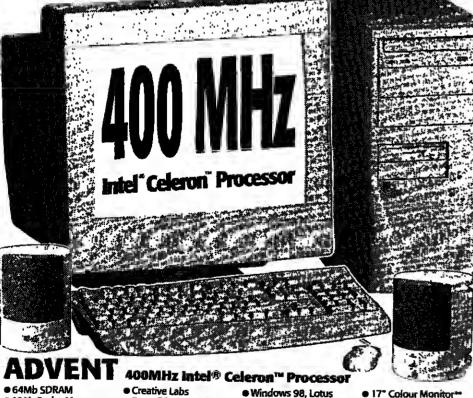
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McLibel two in new court challenge

BY SARAH WILSON

THE FAST food chain McDonald's, which spent about £10m to win an uncollectable £60,000 in the "McLibel" saga, is to throw thousands more into contesting an appeal by the activists

Helen Steel, 33, and Dave Morris, 44, who have an income of less than £7.500 a year between them, are appealing against the ruling that they libelled McDonald's in a "factsheet" first published by London Greenpeace in the late Eighties.

A leading human rights barrister has provided the pair with detailed advice for free. although they will still represent themselves in court.

On Tuesday, Richard Rampton QC, one of the most respected libel silks in the country, will confront them once again.

The first time, despite their lack of legal training, the pair proved several important points. This time they might even win. They will argue that a multi-national corporation should not be able to sue for libel in the same way that governments and local authorities are barred from taking egal action.

The outcome of the appeal is less important for the activists, however, than the publicity it will generate. A website set up by volunteers during the first portant [it] is upheld," he said.



Helen Steel: Second bite at the fast food giant

trial has been accessed more than 65 million times. The publicity surrounding the trial has given green activists a platform for disseminating embarrassing information about McDonald's far more widely than any leaflet could.

On the day the appeal hearing begins, activists will also screen a film about the case at 100 cinemas and on cable networks around the world, including 18 in Britain.

A spokesman for McDonald's Restaurants Ltd. the UK arm of the worldwide corporation, yesterday defended its decision to spend more money in court. "There were many very serious allegations aired

... at the initial trial. We welcomed the judgment when it was handed down. It is very im-

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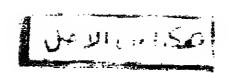
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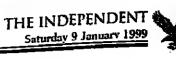


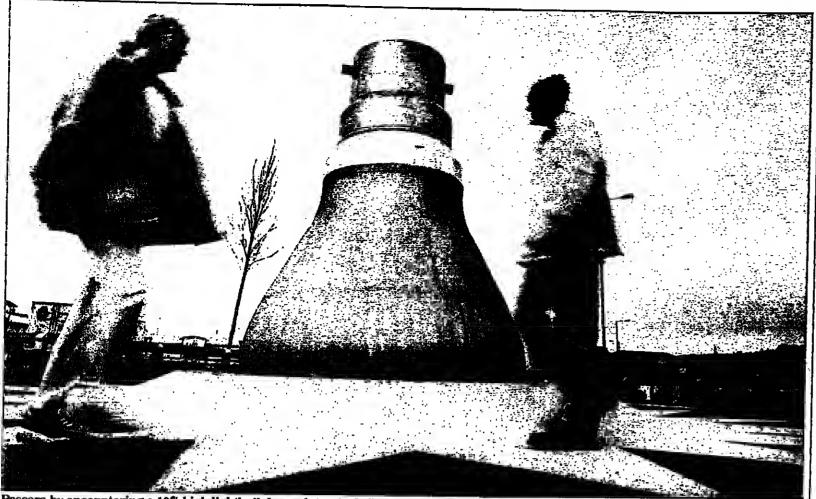
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Passers-by encountering a 10ft-high lightbulb by sculptor Andy Hazell in the Forster Retail Park, Bradford, West Yorkshire Joan Russell

BSkyB cheat sen is dished by Murdoch

in the name of "Spangles Muidoon", his vanishing act seemed a fitting finale to a short hut highly lucrative criminal career.

"Spangles" - real name Chris Cary - must have thought he had cheated justice when he walked out of an open prison in Sussex in August after serving four months of a four-year sentence for fraud. After reports of a sighting in France, Cary, a cult disc-jockey in the 1960s, appeared to have vanished with his girlfriend and their two children. The police seemed less than hopeful of returning the 52-year-old to Britain.

But two days ago, with the

Crime Correspondent

help of private detectives, he was arrested in New Zealand and faces extradition. He may have got away with it had he chosen to con a different company. Unfortunately for Cary. the victim of his fraud was Rupert Murdoch, not known for his generosity towards rivals.

In February Cary pleaded guilty to defrauding Mr Murdoch's BSkyB satellite station of up to £30m. He masterminded a scam in which he sold illegal Sky decoder cards for up to £450 each. It involved cracking the smart-card codes that enable decoders to unscramble satellite television channels. In the seven years to 1993 he admitted to turning over £30m and

making 230,000 decoder boxes. Kingston Crown Court heard that Cary's Duhlin-based Megatek company was taking £20,000 a day until he and his accomplices were arrested in June 1996 after an undercover police operation.

It was not Cary's first run-in with the authorities. After joining the Radio Caroline pirate station, he secretly made an illegal broadcast from a BBC huilding. After working for Radio Caroline, Radio Luxembourg and BBC radio, he moved to Dublin in 1980 and set up Radio Nova.

After Nova's closure he went on to lead a glamorous lifestyle in Surrey that included a Rolls-Royce with the registration THE 60S and a £3m mansion. But his smart-card scam was his undoing. In August, 10 days after an

appeal against his sentence was refused, he told staff at Ford jail that he was going to the prison farm to get compost. Minutes later he made his escape in a white Peugeot.

Frustrated by the police's apparent inability to track down Cary, BSkyB took the law into its own hands and hired private nvestigators to check a tip-off unfairly treated in England and that he had fled to New Zealand or Australia

The New Zealand detectives tracked Cary, who was using the assumed name Chris Broady to a house in Auckland. New Zealand police said he had been using a passport that was in the name of a dead British

The private detectives said they had found evidence that he had been buying assets and set-

ting up businesses He is believed to have been living with Sybil Fennell, his girlfriend, and their two children, who left the couple's Surrey home shortly after Cary's

Cary was remanded in custody and faces a charge of travelling on a false passport.



Cary: Sold illegal decoder cards for up to £450 each

A BSkyB spokesman said: We got help in tracking him down by employing people who were good at that sort of thing. Clearly it's very important for our business that anybody who tries to defraud us or pirate our systems knows that every effort will be made to ensure justice is done."

Cary's lawyer, Roger Chambers, said his client had not yet decided whether to fight extradition.

He said: "He is most interesting and a very likeable fellow. He feels that he had been that's the reason he walked out of an open institution."

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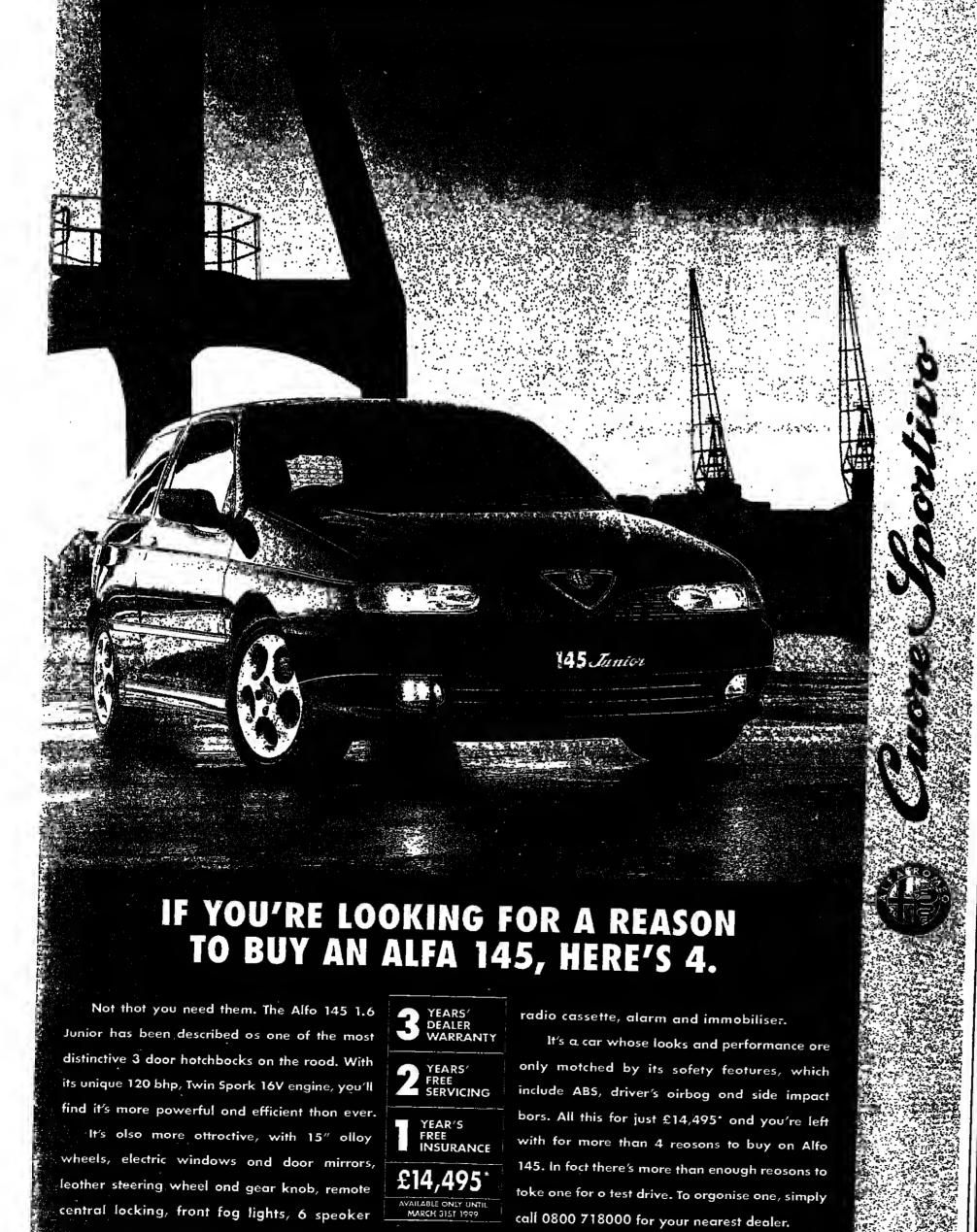
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Senate brokers deal on Clinton trial BY MARY DEJENSING in Washington FOREIGN NEWS/12

in Washington

HEPUBLICAN AND Democratic leaders in the Senate hmached a compromise yesterday that should allow the impeacliment trial of President Bill Clinton to proceed.

Building on proposals made by the Republican senator Phil Gramm, and the veteran Democrat Edward Kennedy, they agreed that the evidence against Mr Clinton should be presented first, and only then should the question of whether to call witnesses be decided. In the meontime, a bipartisan committee would consider how witnesses would be treated if they were called.

The framework of a solution emerged 24 hours after the opening of only the second presidential impeachment trial in US history, after the Senate had spent the morning in a rare informal session in an attempt to break days of stalemate over how the trial should proceed.

It was adjourned on Thursday afternoon, immediately after the senators had been cerenionially sworn in as jurors. with no date or timetable agreed for its resumption.

Without a resolution, the United States was in the unique - and constitutionally unsettling pusition of having the President theoretically on trial for his job, with no certainty about the terms of the trial or its duration. In almost any other



be regarded as a major constitutional crisis.

With public interest and concern about the trial apparently minimal, however, and a congressional tradition of negotiating and deal-making on the small print of legislation, the view had been that a compromise would be found.

The big sticking-point was

"live" witnesses. When the House of Representatives conducted its hearings, it called only lawyers: the independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr, who conducted the Investigation into the Monica Lewinsky affair, and lawyers for Mr Clinton.

They took "as read" the evidence and transcripts of testimony contained in the Starr Report and supporting docu-

Trent Lott, Senate Republican Majority Leader (left), President Bill Clinton, and Tom Daschle, the Senate Democratic Leader. A deal on the trial seems within reach

larised on whether to follow the House example or not. And. while the compromise reached vesterday should allow the trial proper to begin, the underlying problem may only have been

On one side are a majority of the line of the White House) who oppose calling witnesses.

ments. The Senate was po- Their most frequent argument is that it could drag out proceedings for months and imthe workings government.

Behind this, however, lies another reason: the fear that Ms Lewinsky, Linda Tripp, Vernon Jordan or the President's pri-Democrats teffectively toeing vate secretary might say things under cross-examination - perhaps inadvertently - that dam-

aged the President's case. Witnesses would introduce an element of unpredictability that the White House desperately does not want.

On the other side are Republicans, probably a majority of them, who say that the Constitution requires a trial, and a trial should entail consideration of all the evidence and questioning of "live" witnesses. Sen-

ators, they believe, should judge the merits of the case for themselves. Hardliners also believe there may be more stones to be upturned.

One reason wby Democrats, who are in the minority, were able to block an agreement so effectively and provided the basis for vesterday's compromise was that some Republi-

cans also worry about the risks

presented by witnesses. On the right are those who do not want their constituents to see them in a forum that might include Ms Lewinsky discussing the more intimate details of her anatomical contact with the President. On the left are those who fear that their more "moderate" constituents would blame them for forcing a popular president to trial, and vote

them out at the next election. The Senate Republican Majority Leader, Trent Lott, said that under the emerging plan the trial would begin next week with opening presentations. Meanwhile, four senators, two from each party, would begin working on the issue of calling witnesses.

"There's a general outline agreement. They're going to work the details out," said the Republican Jim Bunning after all senators had an extraordinary private meeting in the Old Senate Chamber, John Breaux, a Democrat, said that "ultimately there will be a vote on witnesses", indicating that it would be up to the full Senate to decide the issue.

Mr Lott said that under the emerging plan there was "no nreclusion of witnesses and no inclusion of witnesses ... When we get to that point, we will make the decision then."

The Senate Democratic Leader, Tom Daschle, expected an "overwhelming, bipartisan" vote in favour of the package once it was drafted and submitted to the Senate.

President still high in polls

THE DAY after becoming the BY MARY DEJEVSKY first president this century to be subject to a trial by the US Senate, Bill Clinton left his lawyers and coogressional placemen to fight his corner in Washington and flew to Detroit to exult in the continued good health of the economy.

His "away-day in Motown" to celebrate 93 months of growth and the "longest peace-time expansion on record" was the latest example of the businessas-usual policy he has pursued since the start of the Lewinsky scandal almost a year ago.

It has been credited with keeping his approval rating so He has regained none of the high and helping to fend officials weight he lost in the early for his resignation or removal. months of last year and his face On Thursday, when the Senate looks almost craggy.

in Washington

opened the impeachment trial Mr Clinton's job-approval ratings, as measured in a CNN poll, stood at 63 per cent.

But the significance and uncertainty of the trial may be starting to take a toll. Since his defiant rally in the White House Rose Garden on 19 December, the day the House of Representatives passed two articles of impeachment against him, Mr Clinton has appeared at times preoccupied and dis-









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Blairs moved by dying six-year-old

TONY BLAIR was visibly moved BY COLIN BROWN yesterday when he met the six-year-old girl the Blairs are sponsoring in a South African care home for children dying of

The Blairs first met the child two years ago and have been sponsoring her with a gift of £15 a month, but now she is living on borrowed time.

The girl, whom reporters were asked to call Mary to protect her anonymity, was HIVpositive at birth and was abandoned by her mother, who had Aids.

Mr Blair kept hold of Mary's hand from the moment he emerged from the Nazareth House care home for a photocall on the sunbaked lawn and

While Cherie Blair played with other children, who are also suffering from the disease, Mr Blair took Mary to a climbing frame, and chatted quietly to her.

The contribution people

means of tackling issues like this is to recognise we are living in a global community," he

Over 80 per cent of the world's Aids victims are in Africa, and South Africa is facing a growing epidemic of the disease, with more than 16 per cent of the population HIVpositive.

Mary is one of 40 children who are heing treated with pain-killers and antibiotics, but who are not normally expected to live beyond about six years of age. The country is too poor to provide expensive maintenance drugs for Aids victims such as AZT said a spokeswoman for the home.

The Blairs have been kept informed of Mary's progress with photographs of the child, and occasional letters. All the children at the home, which is run by nuns, have arrived through be built to take another 14 HIVmake is up to individuals but the the courts. "Children with Aids positive children.

The visit highlighted the £100m in funding that Britain is giving globally over the next three years towards combating Aids. Much of the help will go to South Africa, which has one of the fastest growing rates of HIV infection in the world -1,500 new cases each day, compared with the same total each year in the UK

when South Africa hopes to host the World Cup - more people will die from Aids than from all other causes, and there could be two million Aids orphans like Mary. The children's home is lo-

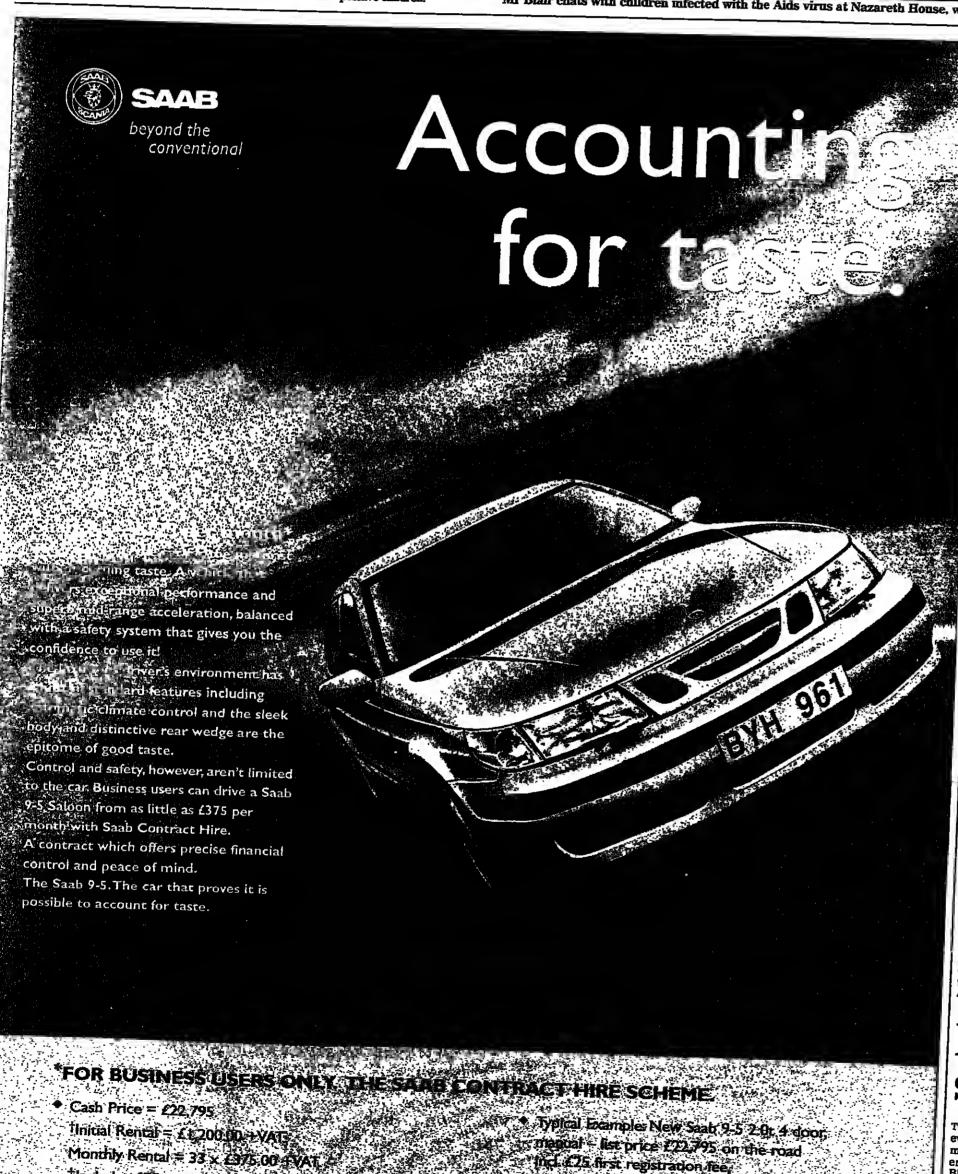
It is estimated that by 2006

cated in an idyllic setting, under Table Mountain, on a hillside with a garden fringed by palm trees, and with a view to the Atlantic

Mr Blair also announced a grant to the home of £20,000, which will allow an extension to



Mr Blair chats with children infected with the Aids virus at Nazareth House, where the girl his family sponsors is cared for



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Three hit as police fire on Muslims

SOUTH AFRICAN police said BY ED O'LOUGHLIN that at least three people were in Cape Town injured in Cape Town yesterday when officers opened fire on Muslim militants attempting to demonstrate outside a function attended by the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair.

The incident occurred shortly after Mr Blair's party arrived at Cape Town's 17th-century Dutch castle, where he was to present medals to 15 British sollater, when a number of Musdiers attached to the South lim men and youths regrouped African National Defence and be Forces. Among those injured were Talia Bader, a leader of the militant G-Force Islamic group in Cape Town, and Lynn Murray, a reporter with the South African Broadcasting Corporation, who was hit by shotgun pellets in the legs and hand.

A police spokesman said that the officers present had fired a stun grenade and rubber bullets to disperse the protesters, who had not been given permission to demonstrate and who had been chanting death

threats against Mr Blair. He could not confirm the use of shotguns, although reporters present, including The Independent, saw or heard o down dring at least 20 rounds from levelled shotguns in the direc-tion of the crowd. Despite the end of apartheid-era unrest, shotgun rounds, euphemisti-cally called "bird shot", are still routinely used for riot control.

While police later claimed that they believed shots had been fired at them from the crowd, no journalists or civilian witnesses could confirm this. The first shots, including a number of tear gas canisters, appeared to have been directed at the protest leaders when they failed to disperse, at about the US consulate to 4.30pm. A police spokesman, High Commission.

Inspector Eugene Sitzer, later confirmed that Ms Bader appeared to have been struck in

the head by a rubber hullet. Other demonstrators, including a young boy, were also seen to be injured but managed to flee to escape arrest. Police opened fire again, five minutes missiles. It was at this point that

the journalist was hit. Last night Mr Blair played down the violence and the demonstrations. "You get used to protesters and there weren't very many of them. I think it'a pretty limited and there were a very small number of demonstrators," he said.

A South African minister apologised to Mr Blair for the violence when he later made his speech in the South African Parliament building. "We express our regrets. We support free speech but this must be done without violence," Kader Asmal, the Minister for Water, held Mr Blate.

The shootings marked the culmination of two days of "cat and mouse" between Cape Town's police and members of the area's small but vocal Muslim minority, seeking to demonstrate their anger at the recent British and American military attacks on Iraq.

On Thursday, several memhers of a group calling itself Muslims Against Global Oppression were arrested after pistol shots were fired at a police vehicle attempting to break up an illegal march from the US consulate to the British

PM helps to save swimmer

TONY BLAIR has gone where even the boldest spin doctor might fear to position him. It emerged yesterday that Mr Blair helped save a drowning man's life, pulling him out of the sea in the Seychelles and on to the yacht that the Prime Minister had chartered for the day.

Actually the man wasn't ex-Actually the man wasn't exactly drowning but "would soon have heen in big trouble" and Mr Blair didn't get into the water to rescue him.

No matter. This was a spin

doctor's dream come true. Not only was Mr Blair a hero. But had he returned from holiday earlier to ensure his children were back at school on time then

clearly a man might have died. But some elements of the story did lack the heroic touch. Mr Blair had taken to the water hecause his mobile phone couldn't get a signal on the

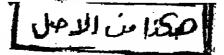
BY DAVID LISTER

beach. The holidaymaker did not recognise his rescuer. But the skipper of the boat, Gerard Muffard, was effusive in his praise. He explained: "Mr Blair called out and asked him if he needed help, and he said 'yes'." He added: "Mr Blair was very calm. He just said to him 'We can help you. Where do you want us to take you?' We got the dinghy alongside the man and he was able to climb in, but all three of us fincluding a bodyguard] gave him extra help to get him into the boat."

Police in the Seychelles capital, Victoria, just said an incident occurred and the Prime Minister hauled the man on board. But then police the world over can he jealous of the drama, publicity and awe generated by a true super-hero.

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Saddam 'lost key advisers' to Desert Fox

LAST MONTH'S bombing of iraq by the United States and Britain claimed the lives of several key figures in the upper echelons of President Saddam Hussein's government and has forced him to take "desperate" measures to retain control of bis country, US military offi-

cials suggested last night. In briefings to reporters, American military commanders claimed that the damage caused by the bombardment was more serious than previously thought. The strikes, they said, had killed hundreds of President Saddam's elite Republican Guard and caused widespread physical damage to bis military infrastructure.

They suggested that the impact of the strikes offered one explanatioo for the recent provocations of American and British jets patrolling the northero and southern no-fly zones in Iraq. Revealing that Iraqi aircraft had violated the zones on 40 occasions in recent weeks, General Anthony Zinni said Iraq was apparently seeking to shoot down one of the patrolling iets in a "desperate attempt ... to claim some sort of victory".

BY DAVID USBOURNE in New York

While cautioning that he did not want to "overstate" the internal difficulties faced by President Saddam, General Zinni said Washington "is seeing things that indicate that maybe his grip on control and the ruthlessness by which be attempts to maintain control is slipping". General Zinni is in charge of the US Central Command and was the commander of Operation Desert Fox.

The general said that during the 16-19 December campaign, President Saddam had ordered the executions of military commanders considered to be traitors. He added that, since the bombardment, additional executions had taken place of civilian leaders in southern Iraq.

"If I were a member of Saddam's inner circle, I'd worry," General Zinni said. "t do think we see clear signs that his internal control has been affected. I think we see clear signs that he's worried about it. I think we see clear signs that he's dong things that are desperate". The general warned

that new aerial skirmishes were likely. Saddam is "dangerous now and could become more dangerous", he said.

The bead of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Henry Shelton, told reporters that "several" key aides to Saddam had been killed during the missile strikes. He declined to name the victims saving it would compromise US intelligence sources in Iraq. "When you look at some of the intelligence reporting that has come in, [there are] several key individuals that were right in the upper structure that are no longer available to him, to advise or to lead," he said.

He added, meanwhile, that an estimated 600-1,600 soldiers in the Republican Guard had been killed during the assault and that "several times" that number had been wounded.

The briefings will be seen in some quarters as an attempt by the Clinton administration to answer scepticism about the effectiveness of the December strikes, Concern continues to mount that neither Washington nor London has any clear policy to pursue in Iraq in the wake of the attacks



Worshippers at prayer in a Baghdad mosque for the third Friday of Ramadan AP

Heads roll in US Olympic bribes scandal

THE SCANDAL that has rocked BY DAVID USBORNE Salt Lake City, over allegations that bribes were paid to help its successful hid to stage the Winter Olympics in 2002 claimed its first victims vesterday, when the city's most senior Olympic officials resigned.

As allegations of illegat inducements to members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), continue to multiply the Salt Lake Olympic Committee president, Frank Joklik, resigned but will stay on until a successor is hired. He asked for and received the resignation of senior vice-president Dave Johnson, Two other officials were placed on paid leave.

In announcing his resignation. Mr Joklik confirmed that the bid committee which landed the Games for the city had paid IOC members cash and gifts, in one case more than \$70,000 in cash.

The New York Times said that the payments could have been made during an IOC meeting in Budapest in 1995. Salt Lake City won the compeution to become the Winter Games 2002 venue by a landslide vote at that meeting.

The resignations, the latest moves in what has become the worst ethics scandal in Olympics history were announced after a joint session of the Salt Lake and US

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in New York

Olympic committees. The affair has cast an embarrassing pail over Salt Lake City, a place more usually associated with the Mormon Church, which is based there.

Four separate investigations are already under way into claims that nearly \$400,000 was spent on educational scholarships for young people associated with members of the IOC. There are suspicions that some of the money may have been pocketed by IOC officials and never spent on education.

US West, a telecommunications firm, has announced it is withholding \$5m in games sponsorship while the investigations are under way.

tt was also disclosed vesterday that one IOC member. named as Jean-Claude Ganga. from the Republic of Congo. may have been given a "sweetheart deal" to buy three luxury home sites, close to the Olympic downhill skiing site. three months after Salt Lake City won the contest.

According to the Associated Press, Mr Ganga was able soon afterwards to sell the land, at a profit of \$60,000, in a deal organised directly through a member of the city's Olympic bid committee.

Sharp rise in German jobless

GERMANY'S SOCIAL Democ- By IMRE KARACS rat-led government, which came to power last autumn promising to vanquish unemployment, was iolted vesterday by a steep rise in the jobless figures.

A further 250,000 people were forced on the dole in December, pushing the headline unemployment figure back above four yield in the coming months. million for the first time since September. The unadjusted jobless rate now stands at 10.9 per cent, slightly above the European Union average.

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As the mirage of new jobs fades, the government of Chancellor Gerhard Schröder is coming under increasing pressure to resort to traditional Keynesian methods of boosting the stumbling economy.

But Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister and leading advocate in Europe of state intervention in the labour market, will - ry to duck the issue. Tensions between the government and the European Central Bank (ECB) are likely to rise as he puts the

terest rates. These stand at 3 per cent in euroland. Although Wim Duisenberg, the president of the ECB, has so far resisted calls for further interest rate cuts, most economists expect him to

Almost no expert expects the German economy to match last year's growth rate of 2.7 per cent. The government has pencilled in 2 per cent, most banks expect about 1.8 per cent, and this week the prestigious German Eco-

Taking seasonal factors into consideration, the rise in joblessness last month was less bad than it appeared. German unemployment always rises in winter, and the seasonally adjusted jobless figure rose by a moder-ate 34,000 to 4.15 million.

But whatever the true state of employment, the latest figures seem to confirm the longblame on excessively high in- awaited slowing of the economy.



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Pakistan locked into a tragic cycle of violence

school. In this ostentatious middle-class suburb of Islamabad, where the concrete villas are clad in fancy tiles, sits a huddle of half-finished structures separated by a stretch of mud.

There is a mosque of rude cement, a hovel of whitewashed brick In the dormitory two small children doze under quilts. In the crude, pitch-dark kitchen, older boys squat in the dirt to prepare the lentil curry that will end the day's fast.

This primitive school represents the most pressing problem for Pakistan's Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif. It is an Islamic fundamentalist school, and there are 25,000 like it rated with weapons and bloody across the country. It is poverty stricken, because this and previous governments bave done everything they could to cut its sources of funding.

Its headteacher, in long black robes and with a sweeping beard, disavows any involvement in politics; but be is an active member of an extreme Islamist party, the Jamiyat Ulema Islam. And it is the country boys graduating from it has never happened.

PETER POPHAM

schools like these who go on to become the footsoldiers of Afghanistan's Taliban and their ultra-violent equivalents in Pakistan, notably the Sipa Sahaba Pakistan - the group held responsible for shooting 18 Shia Muslims dead in a mosque in central Pakistan last week.

Pakistan is locked in a cycle of violence. Karachi is the notorious case, where descendants of migrants from India have shoot-outs on a daily basis. But, thanks to the Afghan war the whole country is satumayhem is all too common.

In normal times, Mr Sharif might manage to live with violence at this level. It is, after all, restricted to professional terrorists: in the long attrition between Sunni and Shia terrorist s. sparked by the Islamic revolution in Iran, each massacre has been followed by predictions that the communities would take up arms against each other - but

times. When Mr Sharif ordered Pakistan's nuclear tests in May be set a clock ticking towards economic disaster. This was clearly understood at the time, because of the predictable effects of sanctions and the low level of foreign reserves. But he went ahead with the tests.

He then pushed the hands of the clock further towards midnight when he initiated aggressive action against Hudco, a London-based power company which owns and runs the biggest private power plant in the country. Claiming that the company was guilty of corruption in its dealings with the government of his predecessor, Benazir Bhutto, he raided its offices and had arrest warrants issued for its executives. A better way of scaring off foreign in-

vestors is hard to imagine. Foreign business continues to fight shy of the country, and one compelling reason is law and order Moeen Qureshi, a former caretaker prime minister now in business in Washington DC, said this was a "very serious" situa-

whole month? You will find all of them remain closed for onethird of the time [due to largescale extortion)... the problem is spreading in the interior of the country as well."

It was in October that Mr Sharif first indicated his determination to tackle the problem when be severed his party's ties with its ally Mohajir Qaumi Movement, which is both the dominant political party in Karachi and the city's main terrorist organisation. He clamped martial law on the city, and set up special military courts to try those accused of terrorist crimes. The first two men to be sentenced to death by the courts were hanged last week

The approach was draconian, but many believe it was long overdue. Mr Sharif's harsh action may be a first step towards restoring government control. But last week's atrocities -

the massacre in the mosque and the bridge bomb two days earlier that was believed to be an assassination attempt on Mr Sharif but killed four others tion. "How many factories in are seen by some as a sign that

is not going to be won easily.
Pakistan's hope of braving the present economic storm de-

pends substantially on Mr Sharif holding his nerve. If his courage fails and the terrorists regain the upper hand, it is likely a means will be found to remove the government. If law and order improves, bringing signs of an economic spring, he may be-come the first Pakistani prime minister since Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to serve his full term. After months of deepening

gloom following the two countries' nuclear tests, a chink of light entered Indo-Pakistani relations yesterday when the first bus from India since partition arrived in Pakistan's city of Labore. Agreement to inaugurate a reg-ular bus service between Delhi and Lahore was practically the only positive outcome of recent talks between the two old enemies, which have fought three bitter wars in the past 50 years. Threats by Shiv Sena, the Bombay-based Hindu extremists, to disrupt the service "by all possible means, including violence," failed to materialise.



A young scavenger running past burning tyres in Islamabad yesterday during Shia protests against last week's mosque massacre on Pakistan

Muzammil Rosha

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IN BRIEF

UN moves to calm Sierra Leone

UNITED NATIONS officials flew to Sierra Leone yesterday and offered to mediate between the government and rebels seeking the release of one of their leaders. But Sam Bockarie, a commander of the two-day-old rebellion, rejected the offer and threatened a new offensive.

US may seek Pinochet trial

THE UNITED STATES confirmed that is considering whether the former Chilean dictator, Augusto Pinochet, can be tried there for a 1976 car bombing in Washington that killed one of his opponents, Orlando Letelier. Spanish prosecutors want to extradite the 83-year-old general from Britain.

Commission admits gun ownership

THE EUROPEAN Commission yesterday said its security staff hold five high-powered rifles - contradicting earlier denials of the allegation. A spokeswoman said: "They were bought at a time when there was a terrorist threat."

Prison mutiny leaves 13 dead

A PRISON mutiny in a former Soviet labour camp left 13 people dead after Azerbaijani forces ended a riot. At least two men died in the revolt, at Gobustan, 40 miles from the capital, Baku. They had been jailed for their part in a coup attempt against President Gaidar Aliyev.

THREE SERBIAN police officers were killed and three civilians wounded in Kosovo yesterday but the cause was unclear. A spokesman for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe said the victims were caught in crossfire in Suva Reka, 25 miles southwest of Pristina.

Anwar ibrahim turns the tables

THE FORMER Malaysian deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim, who is in court facing sex and corruption charges, has turned the tables on his accusers by issuing a writ for compensation against the police who arrested him.

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Horse whisperer shares her trail craft

FOR THE campers from the city, a tent in the foothills of Barrington Tops National Park represents a week's adventure. For Jillian Sullivan and Cactus, her ginger mongrel, it represents a way of life. For nine months of the year, sine drives cattle across the wilderness of New South Wales and sleeps under canvas.

Camp conditions are no exruse for stovenliness. A woman's touch is everywhere flowers in the dunny, which is sloshed out with disinfectant ally; not water in the shower block and food supplied with a maternal eye for detail. "So," she says, as a hlackened iroo billycan brings water to the boil who's for breakfast?"

IT IS Mooday, and another urban gang have arrived for their initiation into the ways of the hush, Patience with beginners ("Oh God, I've never sat oo a horse – what will I do if it bites me?") is a quality Jillian has had to develop since giving up her old life, three years ago. She ran a ranch in the outback with her husband Steve. until it became painfully obvi-

A WEEK IN THE LIFE THE DROVER, NEW SOUTH WALES



ous they were in a declining in-dustry that could have trapped them in a downward spiral of

diminishing returns and un-

saleable property. Such is the lot of many in the bush today. So they bit the hullet and sold up, gambling on Jillian's ability to impart to others her lifelong love of horses. "When I had both my girls, I rode up to the day I gave birth, then a week later as soon as I was out of hospital I made a papoose for

sheep and cows. I just had to stop now and then to feed the little one," she said.

BY TUESDAY the heat and dust the trail demand respite. The townies dreaming of Clint Eastwood now have a chance to play Pale Rider and bare a set of lily-white legs. Humans and horses alike cool off in a billabong as the hundred-odd head of cattle being driven to market take their own rest in some shaded pasture, up ahead.

Jillian slopes off to a secluded spot for a private swim before leading the party back to base for dinner. No Spaghetti Western, this, though. A powerful smell of roast beef wafts through the evening air as the riders brush down their mounts for the night before tucking in to hut meat and cold beer.

WEDNESDAY, AND the paying customers are treated to a the 650,000-acrc ranch be-

equine understanding. She steps into a paddock under the jaundiced eye of a mare, spoilt, she explains, by mistreatment at the hands of former owners. A whip cracking at her rear, the beast circles warily: "What we're doing is getting inside the horse's mind, driving ber away, like a lead mare would do in a wild herd," Jillian says. Then, after half an hour of this pas de deux, the coup de theatre - the mare puts her head on Jillian's shoulder. "She wants to be my friend, that's pretty amazing, isn't it?"

"Horse whispering" techniques form the basis of Jillian's whole philosophy. "Horses are pacifists," she says, maintaining her vigilance over tourists with bad riding babits, ensuring that even beginners are safe in the wide open spaces of the Hunter Valley: "If you treat him right, he won't want to run away from you."

COME THURSDAY and the trail leads to a natural vantage point from high ground on Jühan's rented property over the baby so I could sort out the demonstration of Jillian's longing to Australia's richest are sheltering from the rain,



Driving cattle in the Australian outback is work for some, an adventure for urbanites

luxurious cinema.

David Burnett/Colorific

tycoon would seek solace in younger days in a game of polo, gleam in iridescent coo-FRIDAY AND the serious busitrast to the scrub of the hillness of returning the steers to their pens requires all the sides. The hundred or so staff drovers' new-found naviga-

man, Kerry Packer, The nine

lush pitches, where the media

perhaps in their own private. Itional skills. Mission accomplished, and it is off back to the city, to ourse the sunburn and saddle sores, and tell their tales to the timorous ones left behind. Coming the other way is Steve. returning from a week's toil on the Sydney stock market to

place a proprietorial arm around this Belle of the Bush "I thought I must be crazy leaving my husband to go and live in a teot," sbe says, "But if you can teach someone something in your life, it's all worth it." ANNABEL MCGOLDRICK

Jerry Brown brings Panthers to the people

BY ANDREW GUMBEL in Los Angeles

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NOBODY HAS heard a political activist shout "Power to the people!" for a good while hut in Oakland - San Francisco's ugly sister across the bay, famous for its Sixties radicalism - the slothe has become quite fashionable in recent days.

First came Monday's inauguration of Jerry Brown, the mercurial former governor of California and twice presidential candidate, who has returned to the grass roots as the city's mayor. And now two old members of the Black Panthers, the radical movement that fanned out from Oakland to fight for self-determination for blacks, have announced that they are returning home.

al years in jail for his involvement in a shoot-out with police, returned to his old high school in West Oakland and announced he would seek to represent the district in oext year's city council elections. His campagn manager will be Bobby Seale, co-founder of the Panthers and a man perhaps best known for being bound and



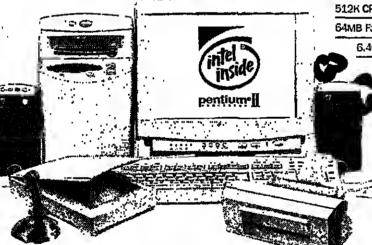
Jerry Brown: Mercurial

gagged in court during the trial of the so-called Chicago Eight at the height of the anti-Vietnam counter-culture in the late 1960s. Mr Seale said be would move back to the West Coast from Philadelphia.

"All power to all the people!" chief of staff who spent sever- a nostalgic throwback to earlier, more bot-beaded days.

Both made clear, however that now whites and blacks can work together and armed struggle is no longer a political requirement. Mr Brown is their inspiration. "We now have a progressive mayor who sounds more like a Black Panther with every speech he makes," Mr Hilliard said.

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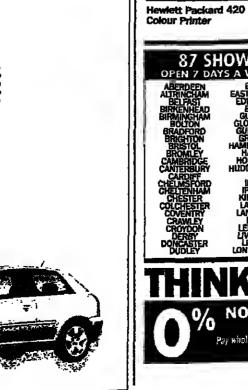
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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Insider dealing probe at UBS

THE WORLD'S largest bank, UBS, faces fresh embarrassment after it emerged that the Zurich authorities are investigating alleged insider dealing before of the merger between Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Bank Corporation senior executives just over a year ago. Spokesmen for the bank said yesterday that it would be "happy to provide any information" to the authorities. The bank was hit in October after the chairman, Mathis Caballiavetta, quit in the wake of the revelations of heavy losses as a recult of the problems at Long-Term Capital Management, the US hedge fund that was bailed out in late

Thames names new chairman



FTSE 100

MYWI

ROGER CARR (left), the chief executive of the fire and security products group Williams Holdings is to become the next Mr Cart, 52, will succeed Sir Robert Clarke who is retiring in March aged 70. Thames said Mr Carr, who has been a director of the company since 1994, was being appointed to the chairmanship in a non-

executive capacity but declined to give details of his salary or how many days a week he would put in.

ENIC confirms bid for Wembley

ENIC, the investment group, yesterday confirmed that it had made an approach to buy Wembley, the group which owns the stadium. ENIC said it had made an indicative offer of 412.5p per Wembley share, of which 200p was in cash and the remainder in ENIC shares. Although the offer was rejected by Wembley's board, the group's three nonexecutive directors have written to ENIC saying they would recommend the offer to shareholders. Wembley Stadium is on the verge of being sold to a national trust which will redevelop National Lottery.

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FTSE 350	2888.70	20.90	0.73	2969.10	2210.40	2.73
FISE All Share	2784.68	20,11	0,73	2886.52	2143.53	2.78
FTSE SmallCap	2133.80	14,20	0.67	2793.80	1834.40	3,79
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Toronto 300	6878.00	77.51	7.14	7837.70	5320.90	1,58
Brazil Bovespa	7005.42	52.05	0.75	12339.14	4575.69	8.48
Belgium Bel20	3573.96	-34.90	-0.97	3713.21	2357.78	1,62
Amsterdam Exch	559.27	-1,81	-0.32	600.65	366.58	1,76
France CAC 40	4245.42	14.75	0.35	4404.94	2809.73	1,90
Milian MIB30	37670.00	-127.00	-0.34	39170.00	24175.00	1.08
Madrid Ibex 35	10412.30	-31.10	-0.30	10989.80	6869.90	1.77
Irish Overall	5276.39	-8.80	-0.17	5581.70	3732.57	1.37
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Marston turns tables with £330m Wolves bid

THE BID BATTLE for Marston Thompson & Evershed took an unprecedented twist yesterday when the regional brewer turned on Wolverbampton & Dudley, its hostile suitor, by launching a £330m counter-bid.

Marston's move is believed to be the first time that a UK company has attempted the socalled "Pac-Man defence", where a firm on the receiving end of an unwanted bid attempts to swallow its predator.

Marston is offering two of its shares and 246p in cash for each Wolverhampton share. At the same time, it proposes to pay its own shareholders a special dividend of 123p per share. The offer counters Wolverhampton's cash-andshares bid for Marston, which was launched at the end of November.

However, Wolverhampton immediately rejected the bid. David Miller, the chairman, said: Marstons clearly have no de-

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

fence to our logical proposal for industry consolidation and have therefore chosen to embark on an expensive and flawed counter-attack aimed at distracting their own shareholders from the merits of our bid."

Marston, best known for its Pedigree bitter and its Pitcher & Piano pub chain, said it would fund the bid by selling 1,150 tenanted pubs to raise about £250m.

It will close Wolverhampton's breweries in Wolverhampton and Hartlepool, shifting some production to its own brewery in Burton-upon-Trent. At the same time Marston has negotiated a deal with Bass, the brewing giant, to take over the production of Banks's, Wolverhampton's best-selling bitter

Marston said the combined moves, which would lead to the loss of 340 jobs, would address the problems of overcapacity in the regional



Peter Mandelson enjoying a pint at the Wolves-owned Camerons brewery in Hartiepool North News and Pictures

nual cost savings of £24m.

Nick Letchet, the chief executive, said: "We believe there is a compelling commercial logic to this offer while more cash will be returned to the combined shareholder group." Under the terms of the deal, Wolverhamp-

brewing industry and yield an- cent of the share capital of the enlarged group with Marston shareholders owning the remaining 45 per cent.

Amid frantic trading, Wolverhampton shares yesterday jumped 72.5p to 510p, while Marston's shares were up 4p at 302.5p. At yesterday's closing ton shareholders will hold 55 per prices the respective bids val-

ued each Wolverhampton share at 851p and each Marston share at 302p, but brokers pointed out that these values were artificially inflated.

Marston's unprecedented move caused confusion in the City. It is understood the Stock Exchange initially refused to release the announcement, believing that Marston's and Wolverhampton's names had been swapped over by accident on the announcement.

Institutional investors, many of whom own shares in both companies, gave Marston's move a cantious welcome. "We are not pohappy with Marston's move," one said. "Of course we would have preferred an agreed deal. but they have been trying to do that for two and a half years."

Nigel Popham, an analyst at Teather & Greenwood, said: "Obviously Wolves is not going to take this lying down. But they will now have to offer a lot more - probably around 380p a share."

Post Office to buy foreign business

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

THE POST OFFICE will next week unveil its first major overseas expansion since being granted more commercial freedom by announcing the takeover of Germany's fourthlargest parcel operator.

The deal to acquire German Parcel, due to be announced on Monday, is said to be worth hundreds of millions of pounds. It will give the Post Office its first a presence in mainland Europe.

The move follows the Government's decision last month to lift controls on the Post Office's ability to borrow commercially and enter joint ventures with overseas partners. It was the last important policy decision by Peter Mandelson before be resigned as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry over the Geoffrey Robinson home loan affair.

A Post Office spokesman said the company would be making "the biggest announcement about the comparty since it was established as as corporation 30 years ago". He would not disclose details. but said it would be "good news for the company and all its customers and employees".

The organisation has pressed for more commercial freedom and a cut in the £320m dividend it pays the Treasury in order to put it on an equal footing with rival international post offices. It served notice immediately after the Government review that it intended to push ahead with a number of projects to expand internationally, particularly in mainland Europe.

Germany's Deutsche Post recently bought a 50 per cent stake in Securicor's parcel delivery husiness and a 25 per cent stake in courier firm DHL International. The privatised took over TNT last year.

The UK's Post Office has entered into two small joint ventures with private operators in Sweden, but until now it has been hamstrung by Treasury rules limiting investment in joint ventures with the private sector to £10m.

The Government review in December ruled out privatisation of the Post Office or floating up to 49 per cent of it. But Mr Mandelson made it clear he intended to keep the privatisation option open. His successor at Trade and Industry, Stephen Byers, is another moderniser although be came from the Treasury, which tried to block easing of Post Office controls.

German

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

RMC, the concrete and aggregates business, issued a shock profits warning yesterday, blaming bad weather and a slump in demand in the former East Germany. Profits in 1998 will not now exceed £265m before exceptional items, compared with current market the 1997 total of £308m.

The shares had already begun to slide this week in anticipation of a cautious trading statement but the severity of the warning took City analysts by surprise.

The shares which peaked at £14 last summer fell 69p to 683p in early trading before closing 57p lower at 695p, wiping £150m off the market value of the company, leading some analysts to speculate that it could be vulnerable to a bid.

Analysts immediately slashed forecasts for both 1998 and 1999 by around £30m. One broker now expects profits as low as £257m in 1998 and median forecasts for 1999 have



RMC's concrete and aggregates business has suffered because of bad weather and falling demand in eastern Germany. Analysts have slashed forecasts and some say the company could be vulnerable to a bid

been cut from £310m-£320m to

A drop in demand in eastern Germany has been inevitable as the tax incentives offered to construction projects following reunification came to an end, but the speed and size of the slump has taken the company by surprise, Peter Young the chief executive said ves-

fall by up to 20 per cent over two years but after a 15 per cent fall in the first half it has fallen a further 20 per cent in the second half and a decline in volume has led to a drop in prices.

The slump in demand in eastern Germany has begun to have a knock-on effect in the rest of Germany, which remains RMC's biggest single

en away in Israel, as a result of the continuing political uncertainty, but business in the UK has been satisfactory, demand and prices for ready-mixed concrete have been steady, and price increases have offset flat demand for aggregates.

Demand in the rest of Europe has also been satisfactory, Mr Young said, and trading results

Demand was expected to market. Demand has also fall- remain encouraging in the US. and especially in California. Prospects in Germany will not

become clear until the spring. but the company has merged its five German divisions into three and cut a further 230 jobs at a cost of £10m. Gearing is still low at 32 per cent, however, and the company expects to maintain recent spending levels on acquisitions, Mr Young said.

C&W shares soar 10% as | Lawyers consider action predators line up offers

SHARES IN Cable & Wireless By PETER THAL LARSEN gained almost 10 per cent yesterday amid rumours that the telecoms giant was about to receive a takeover bid.

In heavy trading C&W shares closed at 888.5p, up 74.5p. as reports suggested that several potential predators were preparing to make offers for the company. C&W has been at the centre

of bid speculation since last month when Dick Brown, the chief executive, unexpectedly resigned to take up a new position as chief executive of EDS, the US computer services company.

had appointed the investment bank BT Alex.Brown to find a buyer for the business. C&W refused to comment.

but observers said the speculation made sense given that the company's shares were still trading at a large discount to break-up value of its assets. Chris Godsmark, telecoms

analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite, said: "We think a breakup or a sale of C&W is the quickest way to realise sharebolder value, given that the company is without a chief executive." The broker estimates One story suggested that C&W's break-up value at 1,100p Ralph Robins, the chairman, a share,

One possibility mooted was a bid organised by Global One, the international alliance in which Deutsche Telekom, Sprint and France Telecom are partners.

However, a range of other notential bidders are likely to be interested in C&W, which has interests in attractive telecoms assets, including controlling stakes in Hong Kong Telecom and Cable & Wireless Communications, the UK's largest cable operator.

Experts said any bid would have to be agreed by the board because a hostile bidder would be forced to buy out the minority shareholders in Hong Kong Telecom as well,

against Griffin's US parent LAWYERS representing some of By John Willcock

the 110 self-employed Liffe futures traders put out of business by the fall of Griffin, the Chicago-based futures broker, are considering taking action against Roger and Tex Griffin, the American multi-million-

aires behind Griffin Trading. The threat of action in the US emerged as the lawyers began talks with the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA) in an effort to win compensation for the

David Greene of Edwin Coe, hich is representing a number of locals - as the traders are known - said that as the UK arm of Griffin was only a branch of the Chicago opera-

tion, the American company might be legally liable to compensate the Liffe traders. Yesterday traders in London warned that the £6m loss-

es made by John Ho Park that led to Griffin's closure before Christmas could result in an ugly legal battle. The three solicitors' firms retained by the traders are threatening legal action against the SFA or the US parent company as a last resort.

None of the locals can start to trade again until they get back some of their funds that were frozen when Griffin collapsed. Stepben Woolfe of City law firm Taylor Joynson Gar-

said: "We are looking at the options for recovering [the locals] assets from Griffin as quickly as possible - either through the regulators or through Griffin itself."

Mr Woolfe said one key ques tion was whether the locals' funds should have been pooled by MeesPierson, the Dutch bank that cleared for Mr Park on the Eurex exchange, or whether they should have been kept in separate "designated" accounts for each trader.

Another avenue could be to allege a "breach of trust" by the Dutch bank on the grounds that locals' funds were being held in trust, said Mr Woolfe.

Arthur Disser

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

SHARES closed sharply up, buoyed by a raily on Wall Street and takeover talk. The FTSE 100 index closed at 6,147.2, up 46 points, after touching a record 6,195.6 just after

Traders were encouraged by rumours of a bid by Deutsche. Telekom for Cable & Wireless. Other telecoms stocks, including Orange and Telewest, rose in sympathy. Smaller stocks made modest gains, with the FT All-Share gaining 20 points to 2,784.7. Market report, page 19 NEW YORK

STOCKS ROSE for the third time in four days. The economy added more jobs than expected in December, increasing optimism over profits. The Dow Jones rose 53.27 to 9590.03 in midday trading, the S&P 500 was up 0.91 to 1270.64 and Nasdaq jumped 25.07 to 2351.16. All three set records in the first 15 minutes of trading. "Everybody's saying they're buying because things are going np. That sets us up for volatility,' said Dan Mathisson at

TOKYO

The Nikkei ended 144.7 points down at 13,391.8, as concerns over the rising yen's impact on bluechips' earnings continued to damage sentiment

Traders were anticipating a raft of profit downgrades acon, as most large exporters calculate earnings forecasts at around 120 yen to the dollar. The dollar was trading at 111 yen by late afternoon in Tokyo. Falls in Sony, Honda and Toyota shares were partly cushioned by continued strength in semiconductor related issues.

HONG KONG THE Hang Seng closed 27.1

points higher at 10,722.7 after soaring more than 200 points in early afternoon amid expectations of a half-point cut in local savings rates. Leading hanks later announced a quarter-point cut in prime rates, leaving the prime lending rate at 8.75 per cent

Traders were cautious on the immediate outlook, although the market rallied through most of last week, gaining more than 900 points since Monday.

FRANKFURT

THE XETRA DAX closed up 24.80 points at 5,370.51. leaving it up 7.3 per cent on the week. Rumours in London that Deutsche Telekom would bid for Cable and Wireless failed to spur its shares, which fell 4.8 per cent amid heavy trading on reports a joint venture would suffer a 1998 post-tax loss of

\$209m. Dresdner Bank rose 7.8 per cent. Tuesday's confirmation it had spun off DM25bn worth of nonbank ahareholdings into a separate company is seen as paving the way for a US acquisition.

DE Shaw Securities.

St fice buy reign siness

LAEL HARRISON "I OFFICE will non eii its first major mer sansion since being rore commercial inc announcing the of Germany's fourth ircel operator. al to ≥cquire German e to be announced on said to be worth hun nilions of pounds have Post Office its first

in mainland Europe We follows the Gin decision last month crois on the Post of ity to horrow com and enter join with overseas part is the last important ision by Peter Man ore the resigned as of State for Trade and over the Geoffrey isome loan affair Office spokesman of bluow vesselect. The biggest an nt about the com-H 1 es established ac COOR ON YEAR ARE 200 mischner details voising he recognises and employees

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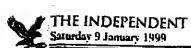
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Pac-Man defence finally takes the stage

ACCORDING TO the records, the Pac-Man defence has never been tried before, in Britain at least. Named after a once famous and now ancient computer game, the idea of which was to turn round and gobble up the little monster that was chasing your little monster. plenty have talked about using it as a way of seeing off an unwanted takeover bid, but nobody has actually attempted it, less still

Judging by Marston Thompson & Evershed's £330m bid for Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, you can see why. The Stock Exchange was so astonished by the announcement that it felt obliged to check this wasn't a mistake or a hoax hefore posting it on the screen. Wolverhampton & Dudley had been bidding for Marston in a mixture of shares and cash. Now Marston is bidding for Wolves, also in shares and cash

That caused Wolverhampton's shares to climb sharply on the stock market vesterday, greatly enhancing the value of its offer for Marston, which in turn enhances



The choice is between two underperformers that have consistently matched each other in disappointment

WARNER

the value of its offer for Wolves. In these circumstances, it becomes very hard to see what fair value for the combined group is, or indeed how it should be split between the

Harder still for investors is to

tween two underperformers that have consistently matched each other disappointment for disappointment

The Marston strategy does at least have a certain vindictive style about it. If successful, Marston will lay waste to its attacker's territory, sacking its management and many of its employees, closing its two main breweries and selling many of its pubs. Most insulting of all, it plans to contract out the brewing of Wolves' best selling Banks's bitter and mild to Bass. Sweet revenge indeed.

Unfortunately, it is not clear that any of this will do much for investors, many of whom are shareholders in both companies. On the other hand it certainly ratchets up the investment banking and legal fees. Both sides can now presumably charge for a bid as well as a defence. What a racket.

PERHAPS IT IS the launch of the judge between the two alternative euro with its promise of ever strategies, for neither company cheaper money but this latest cut stay with what has plainly berome

in recent years. The choice is be- fore, had many of us scurrying away to our filing cabinets to check up on our mortgage and savings ac-counts. All too often, the result has proved a disturbing one. What looked like such a great deal when we signed up all that time ago now turns out to be a real stinker. What's more, it is going to cost us an arm and a leg to chuck it in and sign up with something more modern and

user-friendly. For instance, a colleague finds himself locked into a fixed-rate mortgage which has come to cost more than the better variable ... he faces hig redemption permes

if he tries to shift. Meanwhile, my wife has discovered that the Cheltenham & Gloucester 90-day notice account which she opened for a small inheritance a few years ago, now pays less than the same organisation's instant access account. To disentangle berself, she has to give three months' notice or again face a very hefty withdrawal penalty. in many cases, bowever, it is merely inertia which makes us

has exactly covered itself in glory in interest rates has, as never be- a disadvantageous product. It is gage and savings providers over the often said that it is more common to get divorced than shift your bank account; the same is largely true of savings and borrowings. Once signed up, we generally can't be bothered, or lack the time, to

> Traditionally, the financial serustry has relied on this in _ ua laziness, misplaced loyalty, call it what you will; it's one of the reasons our banks, building societies and life assurance companies manage to remain both inefficient ughly profitable at the same

But things are changing. New low-cost competitors are transforming the landscape, both for savings and mortgages, and suddenly it seems possible to get genuine value for money. The industry may not be able to rely on inertia for much longer.

The launch of the euro has added fresh impetus to the search for value, and that's possibly what's concentrating minds so much right now. Unprecedented numbers are expected to change their mort-

next year. As it happens, the euro's oromise of very cheap mortgage deals is something of an illusion. According to John Charcol, the independent mortgage advisers, it is hard to get a mortgage rate on the Continent of much better than S per cent, despite the fact that the Euro-

land base rate is only 3 per cent. If our own financial services industry leaves something to be desired, plainly the Continental one has got a very long way to go, for in Britain it is now possible to get a variable rate mortgage at very close to base rate.

In any case, if you are prepared to factor currency risk into your mortgage payments, it would make more sense to take out a loan in Japan, where the base rate is just a quarter of a percentage point. Don't forget, however, that the socalled "yen carry trade" - that is borrowing cheap in Japan to lend more expensively in the US and the UK - nearly toppled some of the world's biggest hedge funds last autumn. Currency speculation is best

left to the professionals.

quite astonishing deals on offer back home, by historic standards at least. With the outlook for interest rates so benign, some fixedrate deals are already close to or lower than most euro mortgage rates. West Bromwich is offering 4.99 per cent fixed for two years and 5.25 per cent for five, with no trailer penalties. Savills Private Finance has launched a two-year fixed rate mortgage at only 3.49 per cent. There is no such thing as a free lunch, of course, and many of the most attractive looking deals carry

Meanwhile, there are some

All the same, the outlook for borrowers has rarely looked so good. Standard Life Bank, a new entrant to the mortgage market, is offering a flexible variable rate mortgage at just 6.55 per cent with a discount of 2 per ceot for the first six months. By the time that discount lapses, the variable rate is bound to be much lower Savers fare less well in this downward spiral in interest rates, but you can't have everything, can you?

quite steep signing-on fees and re-

demption penalties.

Footsie touches -new record as Wall St rallies

THE FTSE 100 raced ahead to touch a new record of 6,195.6, but later fell back to close at 6147.2, up 46.0 on the day. The market r .s powered by a rally on Wall Street and excitement caused by renewed talk of rega-deals. The index of leading shares raced up to 6,184 in early trade, dropped back and then climbed again to hit its new high just after 2pm. But it failed to cling on.

The exuberant mood was sustained by rumours of a bld for Cable & Wireless by Deutsche Telekom, C&W stock initially leapt 89p in heavy volume and later closed at 888.5), potential huyers at 1,050p per sbare. An emphatic denial by C&W did little to dampen en-

The telecoms sector has already caught takeover fever in the wake of the hid battle for AirTouch, the US mobile operato, and unexpectedly good 20 per cent, or 72.5 points, to Christmas sales figures.

TOREX, the medical software systems specialist, rose 17 per cent as traders awoke to the fact it looks relatively recession-proof.

While many companies sell IT stocks to companies in cyclical sectors, Torex's customer base is relatively robust. A strong "buy" note from the bouse broker, Beesnn Gregory, also helped the shares to end up 1S.5p at 103.5p.

The fever was infectious yesterday and temperatures rose at Orange, where shares jumped more than 5.5 per cent to hit 945p by the close. Orange's share price is now ther 100p higher than it was during the go-go days of July last year.

As of last night it was outperforming the All-Share by 300 per cent. Telewest also caught the bug, rising 5.4 per cent to close at 216p. Turnover was heavy. SEAQ

said more than 1 billion shares had been traded by the 4.30pm close. Following Wednesday's party and Thursday's bangover, traders were relieved to see Wall Street rallying overnight. The rally continued when Wall Street opened at 2.30pm, albeit in a more temperate way. The Dow was up 48 points at 9585 by 4pm.

Mid and small-cap stocks predictably saw less of the action, with the FTSE 250 closing up 29.7 at 4976.4. The FTSE

MARKET REPORT

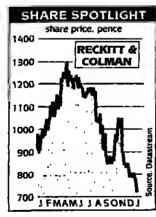


VERITY

Small Cap index settled up 14.2

at 2133.8. Brewers joined in the up 9.2 per cent. Talk was that revelry as Marston, Thompson BT Alex Brown bad heen hired and Exercised launched its to offer Cable & Wireless to audacious counter bid for Wolverhampton & Dudley. But the uncertainty over the outcome of the battle sowed some caution among traders. At 597p, the Marston bid would represent a 35 per cent premium, a cause for scepticism. Wolverhampton jumped nearly close at 510p.

Scottish & Newcastle raced ahead in sympathy with the takeover activity, Jumping 37p to close at 745p. SFI Group, the UK pub operator that owns the Bar-Med brand, jumped 15.Sp to 173p, celebrating in



style the news that like-for-like sales were up 5 per cent in the four weeks over Christmas.

Diageo jumped 40.5p, or 6.1 per cent, to 705.5p. It was belped by the generous sales price for rival food and drinks operator Cantrell & Cochrane. Standard Chartered rose 47p to 836p on news of a cut in Hong Kong's deposit rate.

Continued hopes of a takeover gave a renewed boost to Acorn, the computer group. which rose nearly 10 per cent to 113.5p. Somerfield, the struggling retailer, jumped 11p to 457.5p after Morgan Stanley reiterated its strong "buy" stance ahead of interim re-

suits. The Millennium, for once,

was a cause of optimism. Compass and Granada, both of which have secured big Millennium-related contracts. jumped 8.5 and 6 per cent respectively.

The party-poopers were few, but Reckitt & Colman, the household goods and textiles group, was not coming out to play. Credit Suisse First Boston slashed its forecasts over the next two years, causing Reckitt to tumble 34.Sp to 720p by the close. Tomkins, the buns-toguns conglomerate, was another wallflower. Shareholders are nervous ahead, of the group kressits next week and analysts are known to be pressing for the group to sell its halting division and concen-

RMC group, the cement manufacturer, came crashing down as investors digested a profits warning. RMC said its business had been battered by a slump in demand for construction materials in Germany and Israel that would take a heavy toll on full-year

REXAM, the packaging group, made courageous attempts to extract itself from the despondency surrounding the sector, which suffers from a big overcapacity problem.

After meeting more than 20 institutions, Rolf Borjesson, chief executive, put bis money where his mouth was by buying 50,000 shares. The stock rose 16p to close at 182p yesterday.

profits. Analysts are now

predicting current-year profits of £265m at the most - at least £30m less than expected. The shares fell 59p to 693p. Shares in retailers beaded in different directions as the market tried to guess the out-

come of some crucial trading

statements happening next

Kingfisber, in particular, must be wondering where Santa Claus went. The stock slid 26p to 668p on rumours that a trading statement next week would be gloomy. But the owner of Woolworths, B&Q, Comet and Superdrug is not as vulnerable as some think ac-

cording to Verdict, the re-

spected UK retail consultancy.

The stock may be oversold. By contrast, Dixons, a direct competitor of Comet's, rose 2.5 per cent after Schroders reiterated its "add" recommendation. Other retailers, including Somerfield (up 12p to 458.5p), rose ahead of the market.



proposals on tax incentives, along with other measures

TIN PYIEL

New mortgage

banking subsidiary of

10 per cent of the new

Standard Life insurance

mortgage market this year

£175m in the first five days

after opening this week. It

also get a 2 per cent discount

ALLIED DOMECQ is to sell off

its Irish drinks business in a

multi-million management

euros. Cantrell & Cochrane,

Ballygowan water, is being

766m euros (£542m). The sale

after Allied secured complete

which analysts then valued at

sold to venture capital

business BC Partners for

comes just seven months

ownership of the Irish

Oil jobs axed

BP AMOCO is cutting 900

jobs in England and Scotland,

about 1 per cent of its world-

wide workforce, the newly

giant said. The hulk of the

exploration and production

staff being reduced by about

S00 in London and up to 200

in Aberdeen. Further world-

wide job losses were

formed Anglo-American

cuts come from onshore

around £230m.

company by buying out

Diageo's 49 per cent stake,

which makes and distributes

buyout deal to be paid in

Bulmers cider and

has also cut its mortgage

for the first six months.

Affied Domecq

Labour plans tax breaks for R&D

GOVERNMENT PLANS to encourage more investment in research and development through tax breaks for businesses are to be unveiled later this month, the new Paymaster General, Dawn Primarolo, said yesterday.

Speaking at a productivity roadshow at the Nissan car plant in Sunderland, she said the Government would outline specific proposals to make existing tax incentives more userfriendly, along with oew tax measures to stimulate R&D in small and medium-sized firms and encourage hig firms to invest in smaller enterprises.

The package of measures is part of the Government's drive to close the 30 per cent productivity gap between Britisb industry and its German, American and French rivals.

The Government has shown its determination to tackle the UK's productivity BY MICHAEL HARRISON

challenge using all the levers at its disposal, including the tax system." Ms Primarolo said. But to do so effectively, it needs the belp of business to inform the debate and design effective policies."

The Paymaster General said the Government would need to weigh up the cost-effectiveness of specific measures involving tax breaks. That would require a level-headed assessment of their impact on business innovation and enterprise.

Other initiatives being taken

Apart from tax incentives, the Government is also keen to foster the concept of "corporate venturing," wherehy large companies invest in and form partnerships with smaller enterprises. Ms Primarolo said the Government would examine what scope there was to "kickstart" this kind of activity.

plans to widen employee share ownership and simplification of the tax treatment of intellectual property.
The Nissan site was chosen

to raise productivity include a

review of the banking sector,

for the fourth in a series of joint Treasury/Department of Trade and Industry productivity roadshows because it is the most efficient car plant in Europe, producing three times as many vehicles per man as Rover's Longbridge plant. The Chancellor, Gordon

Brown, signalled in his pre-Budget report that closing the productivity gap would be one of the Government's top priorities. He cited it as a fundamental long-term weakness of the British economy, Work carried out by the management consultants McKinsey shows that UK productivity lags the US by 40 per cent and Germany by at least 20 per cent.



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Buoyant US economy boosts shares

T US economy defied all ex-pectations of a steady slowdown wheo key figures yesterday revealed a staggering jump of 378,000 in the number of new jobs last month, writes Diane Coyle. The unemployment rate dipped back to its 30-year low

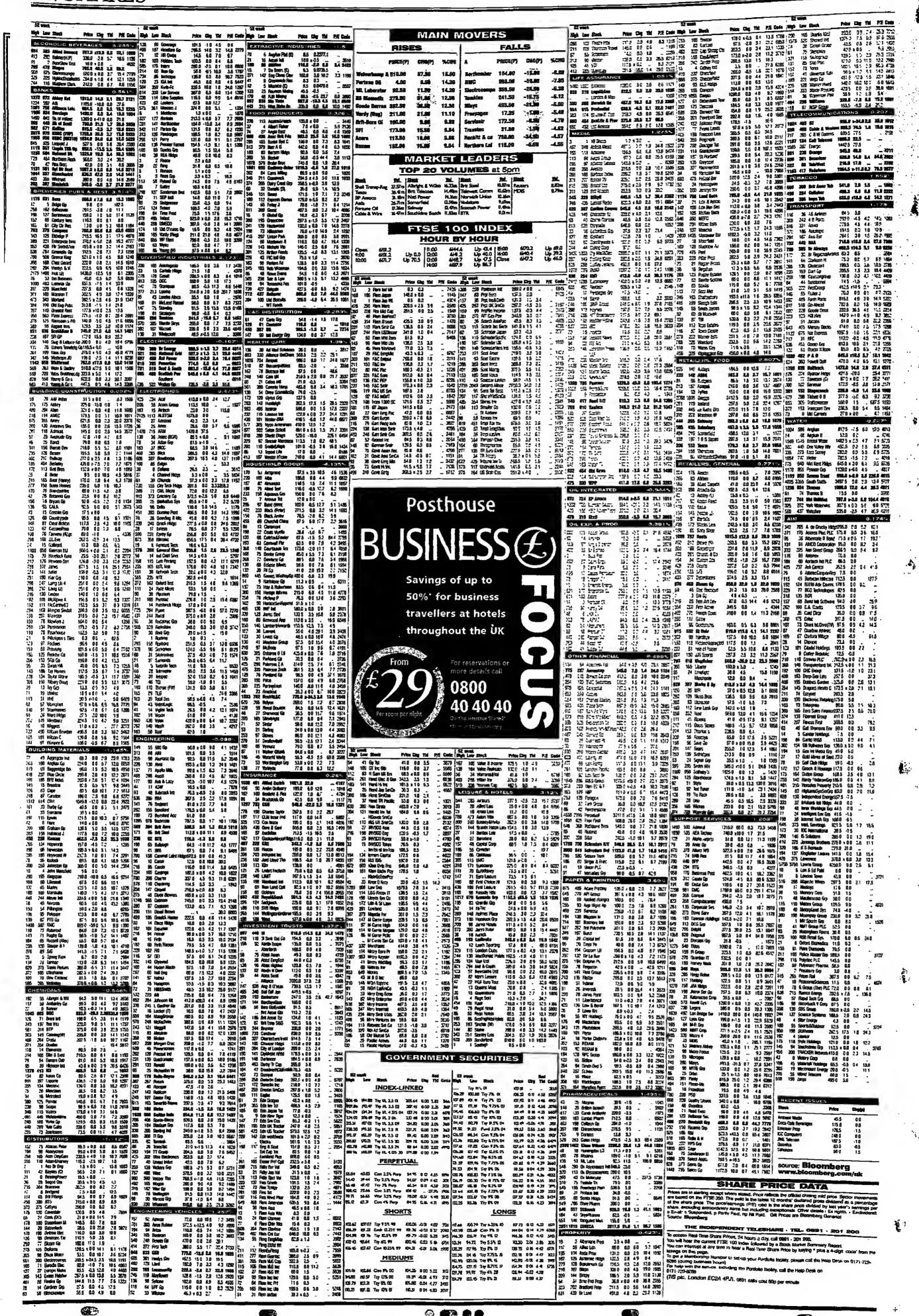
The surprising buoyancy helped share prices climb further. By mid-morning the Dow Jones index was up nearly 55 points at 9,592.35. The dollar gained against the euro and the yen. It reversed a dip below 110 yen on Thursday to climb above 112 yen.

In London the FTSE 100 index ended 46 points higher at 6,147.2, having briefly touched a new high of 6,195.6 during the

Even adjusting yesterday's US figures for a 104,000 boost to construction employment from unseasonably warm December

weather, the rise in the non-farm payrolls total was well above analysts' expectations.

The news, following strong reports on the post-Christmas sales and the housing market earlier in the week, dimmed any remaining hopes for a further



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A fight for the soul of rugby Pari



Tony O'Reilly, who won 29 caps for Ireland and scored a record-breaking 38 tries for the Lions, fears that the unique appeal of rugby union is under threat in the professional era

PETER KININMONTH, a former captain of Scotland, said in ancient times: "We don't have much money, but we do have fun." The opposite may now be the case. The game which was played for recreation, pleasure, some exercise and fleeting moments of glory has now become a professional sport. In consequence, it has changed in ways that are good, in ways that are bad, and in some ways that are as yet incalculable. Most importantly, the future of this once Corinthian game is today up for very public

Put simply, rugby football at the highest level is now seeo as a professional calling with all that implies in terms of contractual obligations, demands for performance, critical crowds, the potentiality for great rewards for some players and an alarming feeling of instability that appears to permeate player, official, and, to a degree, spectator alike.

First the game: played at its best, many of the rule changes today have been enormously beneficial. However, the assisted jump and the pointlessness of fighting for possession make line-outs and loose rucks merely a means of restarting the game against your opponents. Their reaction is the rugby league one of stringing defenders across the field, as Australia did so brilliantly against England in the final of the World Cup in 1991, and all the while a scooting try to their fast runners.

The gladiatorial clash of players, who seem startlingly larger than I recall them, can be as boring as its rugby league counterpart. The loose ruck (Colin Meads once told me that a loose ruck could go on for three months in New Zealand), the forward rush and dribble, the swerve and the sidestep, the desire to beat your opposite number by eluding him, is no longer part of the main game. Running into a man rather than away from him is the new bible of rugby. The aim is to get yourself in a position where, with a three-totwo or a two-to-one overlap, you will score by straight running.

Much of this is very virtuous and there are aspects which I would enjoy greatly in the modern game, but there is a real danger that, as tactics improve, the defender may gain the upper hand, and the glory of the game as a running spectacle may be somewhat diminished.

All of this, however, is remediable. In contrast, there is a great danger that the unique spirit of rugby football and the collegiality of its clubs may be lost in a welter of accusations and counter-accusations that makes the Middle East look like a relative haven of calm.

The nature of the problems are

Union of exerting too much control. You have the International Rugby Board chastising the Rugby Foothall Union for the action of its clubs, whose own actions seek to damage the very Union that defends it. You have a European Cup without the English clubs. You have players whose loyalties are divided between country, province and club, and you have a potential unilateral declaration of independence by the RFU and television from the other Unions. which challenges the very financial lifeblood of the game.

In this maelstrom of imputation and counter-statement, one thing is quite clear: rugby clubs cannot afford to pay the escalating playing salaries (and now transfer fees) of the players if they are to continue. The combination of gates and television receipts are simply insufficient to match the outflows associated with all the principal clubs. Almost every major club will report a loss this year. The losses can only grow because the game, although popular at the international level, will never have the support at the domestic level that a club requires to pay all its bills. This applies as much to Leicester, one of my old clubs and a very successful one too, as it does to Dolphin or Old Belvedere, another two of my old clubs. There will be no Manchester United in rugby football.

A partial solution would be the hoping for some breakdown to give one aired by Dan Rooney, the president and owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers, in London two years ago at a conference organised by Rugby News. He advocated a cap on the amount each club could pay all its players, as operated in the United States in American Football. It has the effect of equalising competition for good players throughout the country and making cost and expense equate to one another. If the cap is £2m and a club wishes to pay £2m for one player, it would have to pay nothing for the other 14 or 20 players, as the case may be. The contrast between the figures paid for baseball and basketball players and those paid in American Football would make instructive reading for all club treasurers in the rugby-play-

In short, rugby football should not be the province of a small handful of individuals or clubs, but should be in the trusteeship and affordable ownership of all committed people, in large and small clubs throughout the world. This gives the game its unique appeal.

On the thorny issue of contracts, I believe that although the basic contract should be with the clubs. the additional cash flow must be from the independent Rugby Unions through their very large revextraordinary. We have large Eng- enues from gate receipts and TV or simply a European Cup, all the lish clubs accusing their own Rugby payments for internationals, and best clubs and provinces in the five



velopment and administrative expenses. Most importantly, there should be a commonality of purpose between the Unions and the clubs as to the performance of that coun-

try in international competition,

and the contracts should reflect

In Ireland, the clubs in all their vigour, loyalty, fun and diversity must be encouraged by the Rugby Union to flourish. While there will be contracts at chib level, the primary contracts should be with the provinces and the national squad, and the provinces should have the

European League and Cup, if that be the final structure agreed upon by all the Unions. Finally, the issue of competition has reduced itself to an absurdity with the English clubs pulling out of the European Cup. Whether you have a European Cup and League

right to represent Ireland in the

final against Stade Français today

mum spectator appeal. The fact scarcity rather than its superthat Ravenhill in Belfast will cater abundance. The Five Nations' for a crowd of more than 20,000 Championship has been part of the people for the European Cup semi-rugby calendar for almost 100 years. To do away with it or to devalue it is an eloquent testimony to the would be both a financial insanity pulling power of European compe- and a major defeat for the growing tition. The very least we should but still measured popularity of the

Rugby football should be in the trusteeship and affordable ownership of all committed people, in large and small clubs throughout the world

have is a European Cup and that, as game. Rugby football is not soccer Bath showed in winning it last sea- and should remind itself of this Bath showed in winning it last season, can be an enormous attraction. rather frequently. Again, the financial results of such a tournament should be divided equitably by the Unions among all those chubs who, by their excelpossible.

The World Cup may surprise, and I believe that northern hemisphere rugby, inspired by the recent performances of England, Wales, lence, make such a competition France and Ireland against southern opposition, may provide the ball is a game in which the interna- if I may put it euphemistically, as diet need to be reminded constantly by

in 1999 may see a more level playing field in this regard than before.

So, in a nutshell, what I am say-

ing is that the International Rugby Board and the individual Unions must continue to be the centrepiece of a growing world game. organisation does not need to be a Individuals and clubs bent upon their own (and in most cases very justifiable) ends, or television companies whose constant responsibility is the search for a wider audience, should not be the determinants for the future of this great game.

I might add in saying this that the IRB will have to be a lot more consumer-friendly in many of its activities to garner the democratic support needed from all world followers. The same is true of the separate Rugby Unions of the individual countries. They are the servants of the spectator, the game and the player, and, in being given In the final analysis, rugby foot- kernel of a number of upsets. And, the authority to run the game,

Golf, that most universal of games run by the Royal & Ancient club from St Andrews, and Wimbledon, the greatest of all tennis tournaments, demonstrate that an efficient and effective major cost centre for the game.

If half of this is accomplished, then we would have a great Five Nations' Championship, a return to the vivacity and enjoyment that characterised the game at very level in the past and a very good World Cup at the end of this millennium year.

Cliff Morgan, that magical fly half from Wales, once said that "rugby football sweats the vice out of a man". Let's hope that similar sentiment at the corporate level yields a game that in its future promise matches its storied and glorious past.

> Dr Tony O'Reilly is Chairman of Independent Newspapers, which owns The Independent, and is a qualified solicitor

Hill still taking it on the chin 28 years later

LET ME first say that Jimmy Hill deserves eternal credit for his key role in effecting the abolition of the maximum wage for professional

Let me add that the enterprising style of management he displayed in taking Coventry City into the First Division in the late 1960s was a

model for its times. Right. Having got that out of the way, I feel free to... oh no I don't. Not

Chin. I say this because the word is always mentioned in connection with Hill, and even though I have no particular view on it I don't want to miss out Chin. There you are. I've said it

So now - over the past 30 years, Hill's comments about the game,



MIKE ROWBOTTOM

aggravated me beyond reason. Like his fellow panellists Terry Venables and more recently Alan Hansen, I bave found his dogged assertions hard to bear Like Aarfy in "Catch 22", nothing can alter his it won't do any good.

And even that is not the thing I find most unforgiveable about Excuse me a moment while I

compose myself. Okay. It is 1971, and Arsenal, under the guidance of their commanding officer, Bertie Mee, and barking sergeant major, Don Howe, are closing on the first League and Cup double since

Tottenham's a decade earlier In the run-up to the FA Cup final, Hill takes it upon himself to devise a new means of rallying the Highbury supporters. A song. Why? Too late, the thought is thunk, and verses penned by the bearded bard

ineffable wisdom. Shout at him, as if they were a new poem by adventure into the world of To the tune of "Quartermaster terrace culture proved dismally Stores", we had: "He's up, he's down, Rudyard Kipling. "Good Old Arsenal, We're proud

to say the name, While we sing this song we'll Win The Game..." to the tune of "Rule Britannia". There comes a point when words cannot support the weight of

meaning invested in them... But let's press on I don't blame Hill for this. What am I saying? Of course I bloody blame him for it. The song still infects my memory. But I can't

blame him entirely. I felt sure that every sensible Arsenal fan would make it their personal mission never to utter a syllable of this dire ditty. Sadly, I was

Young minds were manipulated - that chin does come in useful, I at a particularly vulnerable time first on ITV, then BBC - have benign certainty in his own have to say - appear in the papers of their season. Jimmy's awful big predictable forward, Rodney Green. and with apparent satisfaction.

successful

What distressed me most about the exercise was its blandness, its plonking predictability. It was a manufactured mess for the masses, missing (what a lot of m's indignation provokes; the warp and weft (Whoo! Gone all wibbly-wobbly now) of naturally-occurring terrace chants.

Round about this time, the team I saw most of in real life was our nearest League outfit, Watford. The season before Arsenal's Double, the Second Division side had beaten Stoke City and then, famously. Liverpool, en route to a 5-1 FA Cup semi-final defeat by Chelsea.

A particular favourite Watford song of mine concerned their un-

he's in the Rose and Crown, Rodney Green, Rodney Green." There was, as it happened, a Rose and Crown pub in nearby Croxley Green.

Well, it worked for us. Then there was this offering, widely sung before a Cup meeting with Manchester United: "We all agree, Slater is better than Yashin, Scullion is better than Eusebio, United you're in for a thrashing... I made the mistake of watching the 1971 FA Cup final on television with my friend Taffy Reynolds, an Arsenal supporter. Before the match kicked off, I got a first-hand glimpse of the damage Hill had wrought on impressionable youth when Taffy's younger brother. Jonathan, sang the song repeatedly

After Charlie George's extratime goal had settled the whole shooting match in favour of the north Londoners. Taffy, flushed with success, bellowed the Hill anthem repeatedly in my face with

only a faint sense of irony. At that point, I felt sure I would have been able to argue in any court, the song was a weapon, an

instrument of abuse. "That's rubbish," I can imagine an insistent voice insisting. Doggedly insisting, with a fixed smile, and a faintly jutting you knowwhat, until I'm properly told. "Rubbish. It's just a piece of harmless fun. Your prejudices are

showing." "Good Old Arsenal", with new words from Jimmy Hill, reached No 16 in the charts in the summer of 1971. God preserve us all.

احكان الاعل

Luropean Cup: Neglected Pool-Jones is primed to impress for French at Ravenhill today

by England has Paris at his feet

ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S evocative celebration of Paris as a "moveable feast" clearly struck a chord with Richard Pool-Jones, who has been gorging himself silly on its splendours for three wonderfully stimulating years. Armed with an economics degree from Toulouse University and enough French to recognise his Truffauts from his truffles, England's most successful ex-pat

rugby nut finds himself in the middle of a personal belle

epoch. He runs n printing busi-

ness with a multi-million Euro turnover, he is in the process of noving into a flat in the swanky venth arrondissement -"Aim for the Eiffel Tower and you'll be in the right neighbourhood" - and, most impressively of all, he has cemented his place in the strongest club side on the planet, which is more than can

oe said for half-a-dozen Test-

playing Tricolores. And yet, the 29-year-old Stade Français flanker remains unfulfilled. To the best of his knowledge, neither Clive Woodward nor anyone else from the England hierarchy has vatched him play since he half filled himself in the national cause in Rotorua almost seven months ago. "Out of sight, out of mind," he says sadly. "It seems to me that no matter what I do here in France, however well I play, I'm seen as someone from a totally different world. I'd love to have to another chance with England; in all modesty, if I'm making the starting line-up here, I'm playstarting line up here, I'm play-ing as near to Test level as you?" he points out, entirely makes no difference. For what-

ppening for me on the England front." It is, then, wholly understandable that he should see this afternoon's momentous European Cup semi-final with Ulster as an occasion shot through with personal significance. He does not for a mo-Tent expect any Twickenham hig-wigs to be in attendance, but such is the excitement surrounding the match that every rugby man worth his salt will beg, borrow or steal a tape of proceedings at Ravenhill. The way Pool-Jones figures it, Belfast is the nearest he is like-

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Lionious past.

ever reason, though, it's not

ly to get to Woodward's line of vision this side of the World Cup. On the face of it, his brief flurry of red rose activity last summer was hardly an unmitigated success; after winning his first cap among the romper-suited

babes in arms humiliated 76-0 by Australia in Brisbane, he managed only a further 39 minutes against the New Zealand Maoris before being invalided off the tour. In reality, he was one of the few to emerge from that calamitous five-week balls-up with his reputation intact. If his defensive effort against the Wallabies was inspired - an impression underlined by the fact that during his 14-minute visit to the blood-bin in the first half, England went from 0-6 to 0-33 - his crimson-tinged assault on the Maoris was brave to the point of insanity. They did for him in the end of course, but at least he went down fighting.

Professionalism was confidently expected to put an end to off-the-wall iconoclasts like Pool-Jones, whose rugby wanderings have taken him from England Under-18s and the Varsity Match to the bloodsoaked bull ring of Stade Français' Jean Bouin Stadium, via Biarritz, where be enjoyed the immeasurable privilege of playing in Serge Blanco's last match, and Wasps, where he spent a dissolute few months nursing a knackered knee.

Even now, embroiled as he is in the most competitive playing environment anywhere in the northern bemisphere, he manages to mix sport and business to the satisfaction of all concerned. What is more, be still gets out in the evening. "Only two or three times a week, mind you, but you can't

the opportunity to live this sort of life four or five years from now, hut I find it manageable. "I'm not a nine-to-five rugby sort and I don't suppose I ever

will he; the Stade Françals squad often trains at 10.30 in the morning and that gives me enough time to fit in a business meeting beforehand. The fact that the club is so successful we've had crowds of 20,000 this season - and that I'm out there playing has definitely opened a few doors in the business world. I'm looking to bring a few clubmates into the company to belp all the inter-connections continue once I stop playing."

Which will not be for some considerable time yet Pool-Jones, who lost two complete seasons to injury and to this day has played only 21 French league games in five years,



gloriously addictive.

positively smothered with Testclass talent, the club is among the sexiest sporting attractions anywhere in France - oo mean achievement for a rugby outfit in the land of the football world

ing up for Uister - and it side with a cup final place at Bankrolled by the Parisian included Marc Lievremont, a stake, we could not conceivably ratio mogul Max Guazzini and Grand Slam flanker last season, and the whole Simon-Moscato-Gimbert front row that everyone assumed was our number one unit at the start of the European Cup tournament. Franck Comba, another recent

Test player, can't get in at cen-

give a good account ourselves."

Gloucester players in their

squad but they are unlikely to

stop the Cherry and Whites, who

have club captain Dave Sims on

same confidence at Kingston

Park where Newcastle take on

the undisputed Cup kings,

Bath, who have won the

competition 10 times since 1984.

Bath arrive in the North East

on the back of a stirring

midweek Premiership victory

at Sale. Bath, whose Cup

record reads 60 wins from 76

The other all-Premiership

One tie pits Sale at home to

lost to at Franklin's Gardens a

week ago. "We are only four

matches, are unchanged.

There is unlikely to be the

the bench, from winning.

Worcester have six former

The English boycott has denied me the opportunity of playing in the shop window against Neil Back or Richard Hill'

champions. "It is," agrees Pool-Jones, "an astonishing set-up. Sebastien Viars [the former France wingl said recently that it's harder to get picked by Stade Français than it is by France and, without being funny, I think he's dead right. "Look at last weekend, for

ing better rugby than anyone. That's the measure of the standard bere. We even win away from home in the French championship, which is not really the traditional way of going about things in this country. ing if we get it wrong in Belfast. amounted to a second team at

be any more serious than we have loved to have mixed it with the English in this year's tournament; their boycott has probably cost me personally in that it denied me the opportunity of playing in the shop window against Neil Back or Richard Hill. But Stade Français are in the tournament and the Cun is there to be won. You're either European champions or you're not. In five years' time, who will remember the boycott?"

Not for the first time. Pooltre because Cliff Mytton is play-Jones will perform a fistful of roles this afternoon, acting not merely as open-side flanker but as go-between, negotiator, translator and apologist for his club-mates as they attempt to deal with a fired-up band of ultra-physical Ulstermen, a frenzied atmosphere and a referee in the authoritarian shape

"Our discipline is the hig factor, because we certainly have the skills to win this are about this game. Sure, I'd match," he says. "The French are generally at a disadvantage in that they rarely, if ever, have the luxury of one of their own officials in a cross-border fixture. And let's be honest: British referees see French club rughy in a very poor light and understandably so. It can still be very violent, especially in the sticks. I think I'll be fairly husy out there on the pitch, one way or another."

Whether Pool-Jones executes his many responsibili-ties with sufficient pizzazz to re-awaken Woodward's dormant interest is a seriously moot point. Life bas its little consolations, though. As Hemingway said: "If you are lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever

Gallic goliaths await **Humphreys' Ulster**

IT WOULD BE stretching a talion of Allied Dunbar Prepoint to describe Ravenhill as an oasis of rugby sanity, especially when 20,000 Ulstermen are preparing to give Stade Français the mother and father of all ear-bashings in this afternoon's perfectly poised European Cup semi-final, writes Chris Hewett. But this much can safely be predicted: for 80 wind-swept minutes in Belfast, passion will temporarily replace politics as the common currency of a game slowly sinking in a quicksand of greed, chicanery and naked selfinterest. In short, it will be a

sight for sore eyes. The English clubs' boycott of this season's championship remains the most desperate of many tactical errors in their ongoing conflict with rugby officaldom, be it in the shape of the International Board, the Rugby Football Union or European Rugby Cup Ltd, those far from blameless administrators whose shambolic stewardship the competition would he cough to make a parson Swear If the English pulled out on the basis that there could be no half-decent tournament without them, they were badly mistaken. Ulster, fronically reinforced by a batmiership refugees, have made a glorious scrap of the thing by dumping Toulouse on their well-appointed Gallic backsides en route to the last four. David Humphreys, the for-

mer London Irish outside-half

who bas captained Ulster throughout their European adventure in the absence of Mark McCall, is almost unnaturally modest in his assessment of his province's timely renaissance as a major power in northern hemisphere rugby. "I think it's too simplistic to put our improvement down to the return of the Premiership contingent," he insists. "The thing that has struck me most deeply this season is the performance of people like Gary Longwell, our lock, and Tony McWhirter, our flanker, who have played all their senior rugby here."

For all that, it is to Humphreys, Simon Mason, Jon Bell and Allen Clarke that Ulster will look this afternoon, for no one comes within a bull's roar of beating Stade Français, the overwhelming favourites, without maximising every ounce of available talent, experience, and general know-how. "We'll play with all the Irishness associated with Ulster and, yes,

times, just to see how the French react," conceded Humphreys, very much the form horse at No 10 as Ireland approach the Five Nations' Championship. "But we know we'll need to offer more than that: we're taking a big step up the hill in playing this lot."

This afternoon's winners will face either Colomiers, last year's European Conference champions, or Perpignan, the Basque side who boast Raphael Ibanez, the French national captain, at hooker and the brilliant Thomas Lievremont at No 8. The two meet in the suburbs of Toulouse tomorrow, as do four other French sides in the semi-finals of the second-tier European Shield. Brive visit Bourgoin in the first match, with Montferrand bosting Narbonne in the second.

Welsh Rugby Union officials are expected to confirm Pontypridd and Llanelli as two of their four European Cup representatives next year; indeed, they plan to invest around £500,000 in each to help strengthen their squads. Rebel clubs Cardiff and Swansea would be the other choices, but both are still locked in their on-going dispute with the governing body.

THE EXPANSE of mud norm-

for a cold reception

Worcester prepare

everyone's field of dreams, and steps away from Twickenham," if an 8.30 pitch inspection this said coach John Mitchell, morning passes it fit it could "which is a huge motivation." well be the setting of a Tetley's Saints suffered a surprise Bitter Cup nightmare for Second Division Worcester.

home defeat to London Irish in midweek, costing them the outright leadership of the Les Cusworth, director of Premiership. "We've studied the video but we still can't rugby at promotion hopefuls Worcester, said yesterday: "Historically Kingsholm is the understand why we lost," said one place you would choose not their captain, Tim Rodber. to play. I'll be pleased if we just League Two South leaders

Esher took their players to the panto to watch a production of Jack and the Beanstalk this week. The trip is unlikely to help them much against Harleouins. who have won eight of their last nine Premiership matches.

Sedgley Park (Jewson League Two North) will preface their tie against Wasps with the official opening of their hospitality suites, fitness centre and refurbished dressing rooms. probably the only good thing to happen to them on the day. And it will be a similar story for Barking - Jeff Probyn and all at Leicester.

Tomorrow Kendal are at home to an injury-hit London Scottish, who are at the lower Northampton, the side they end of the First Division. And Henley, who are second in

struggling on and off the field in the Premiership. Henley are in formidable form, having scored 51 tries while conceding 17.

Jewson One side Morley host Saracens, who have made sweeping changes to the side which drew with Wasps in midweek. That includes giving a first-team debut to tight-head prop Jonathan Dawson, an England Under-21 international.

London Irish are without dynamic No 8 Isaac Feaunati and Peter Rogers, both suffering from knee injuries, but they should still have few problems at Second Division Bristol and expect a similar story at Reading where Richmond tackle Newbury of Jewson One.

In Wales, Cardiff will be looking to avenge last month's defeat in the unofficial Anglo-Welsh match against Swansea when they entertain the All Whites at the Arms Park.

Pontypridd have made a bid to bring Will Carling to Wales. The former England captain is being targeted by the 1997 Welsh champions with Eddie Jones, the club's manager, saying: "I have spoken to his agent and be told me that Will would look at the idea. We would have him Jewson League One, will put up here tomorrow if he said yes."



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www.lloydstsb.co.uk/yourprotection

IT IS not often that anyone wishes for more rain in Ireland, but by this evening punters on both sides of the sea may be cursing the fact that an extra inch or two did not fall on Leopardstown this week. On Tuesday, the going on the hurdles course was heavy and the forecast poor, putting today's Ladhroke Hurdle in doubt. The rain did not materialise, though, and 25 runners go to post for one of the most unpredictable events in the calendar.

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Call It A Day (Sandown 3.05) NB: Hit And Run (Sandown 12.55)

Even by its standards, today's Ladbroke is daunting. The ground is bottomless and the field handicapped to finish in a multiple dead-heat, while the tight inner hurdles course at Leopardstown will wreak its usual havoc on a tightlybunched field which goes a strong pace all the way.

None the less, most punters will dabble, and Advocat, the ante-post favourite, will remain a popular choice. Noel Meade's principal hope from three runners has form in several top handicaps, including a fifth place in this race last year But he will need to have improved, and at nine, that seems unlikely.

Impulsive Dream is another leading fancy, but he too is old and exposed, and more appeal rests with Slaney Native (2.20). Jessica Harrington's runner was a solid third behind Joe Mac, the best two-mile novice in Ireland, last time out, and runs off a fair handicap mark.

With Haydock abandoned, the Cazalet/Mildmay Chase at Sandown is the interest in Britain, as the Welsh National winner, Kendal Cavalier, attempts to confirm that form



Richard Guest and Carley Lad part company at the second-last fence in the Ladbroke Handicap Chase at Towcester yesterday as the eventual third, Burnt Imp, gallops past. The race was won by Majors Legacy

not win the Tolworth (Novices')

Samourai, who ran no race at Chepstow. That was an impressive performance by Kendal Cavalier, who carried 13lb more than his true handicap weight, hut relished the deep ground and extended trip to outstay his rivals, marking him-

against Eudipe and Dom selfdown as a contender for the Grand National in the process. The conditions today may not place such an emphasis on stamina, however, and while Glitter Isle (3.05) won only a two-horse race last time, he seemed back to his best and is weighted to go close.

Hurdle, a fact which will be reflected in his price, and Kurakka (2.00), too, is difficult to oppose. There is more to consider in the getting out race, though, not least some of the splendid names of the runners,

> Royrace and I Do The Jokes. The most likely winner, though, is UPHAM LORD (nap 3.40), who found the ground too soft and the distance too far at Newbury last week. Today's conditions are ideal.

which include Tellaporky,

It is difficult to suggest any **Huntingdon bows out** reason why Hidebound should

LORD HUNTINGDON'S career as a trainer, which began in 1976, is over The trainer who has been based at the West Ilsley stables of the Queen, will not be renewing his licence next month and had hoped to sign off with Browning, who is now lame, in today's Armagh Handicap at Lingfield.

"My first runner, Better Blessed, was a winner," Huntingdon said, "and my last two, Just Wiz at Southwell on Saturday and Violet on Wednesday due to be televised by the BBC.

both won as well. I'll have a sabbatical and see what happens." Huntingdon's winners for

the Queen included the Royal **Hunt Cup with Colour Sergeant** in 1992 and the Ribblesdale Stakes and St Simon Stakes in 1995 with Phantom Gold. He also saddled Indian Queen (1991) and Drum Taps (1992 and 1993) to win the Ascot Gold Cup. Heavy rain has caused the abandonment of today's meeting at Haydock Park which was

LEOPARDSTOWN

HYPERION 2.20 Sawa-Id

1.45 Lord Heavens

GOING: Heavy.

GOING: Heavy.

Left-hended flat track. Run-in 200yds.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

ILEADING TRAINERS A P O'Brien 37-246 (15%), A L T Moore 28-153 (18,3%), B Mollins 17-77 (221%), N Meade 14-114 (123%), C Roctie 13-34 (38,2%).

Mollins 17-77 (221%), N Meade 14-114 (123%), C Roctie 13-34 (38,2%).

ILEADING-JOCKEPS: C F Swan 34-163 (200%), C O'Dwysr 19-133 (14,3%), F Whode 14-104 (13,3%), R Durwoody 11-82 (13,4%).

FAVOURITES: 126-389 (34,1%).

	_	_	
	[1		PIERSE LEOPARDSTOWN HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 2) £35,000 added 3m Penalty Value £22,750
ì	1	01-500	BORRYJO (13) (Robert Burks) T Carberry 9 11 10
	2	20.630	AUBI E SPEEDT GO (CD) (FOCK INCLUSION
	3	20-002	WYLDE HIDE (13) (C) (D) (J P McMarus) A L 7 McCas 12 II 3
	4	-35011	RYHANE (55) (D) (Att 8 M MONEY) A L HOUSE WHILE CAD
	5	F\$-040	GLEEE LAD (25) (C) (T B Corroy) & J Corroy)
	8	-00320	HOLLYBANK BUCK (12) (D) (ME Steam Industry Cast)
ì	7.	PSPF-0	GO GO GALLANT (SS) (D) (LESSEET MOCKS) A LIST OF THE PARTY OF THE PART
	8		TELL THE MPPER (13) (D) (MS & SECURITY BETTER)
	0		LORD HEAVENS (35) (BF) (From Synacian) J Marphy 7
	10	463140	NATIVE STATUS (13) (D) (T CEDETY) I CEDETY & U
J	п	635460	CAKLER (13) (Joseph Crowley) Miss F M Crowley 9 TO -
	12		UNA'S CHOICE (13) (CD) (Fish & Poulty Portons Ltd) P Proof in U.S
۱	13	34-0FP	GENTLE SUCK (27) (D) (Mass O Doyle) M Syrre 10 109 D.J. Cassy black pick book black and white hooped cap

Discit, pick hoop, black and wines souped sep-06-035 ROUNDWOOD (18) (C) (D) (M P Whelan) D Hughes 10 10 9 while, ed aleaves, yellow cap – 14 declared –

FORM GUIDE

Bobbyje: Hed three rurs before his length-second to Unes Choice in this race leat year. Herd to fancy against this rival on 9th worse terms and no show behind Calling Wild here over Christmas

Amble Speech: Hopeline

after his Chettenham hundle Srd to Jet Tabs. Winner over tendes here and may improve slightly after missing all of last essend
Wylde Hides Loves testing ground and stayed on to fansh 6-length 2nd to Calling Wild here lest time with seven of today's rivals behind. Previously twice behind
better fancied stablemate Ryhane
Ryhanes Progressive and easily best Tonits Tip at Westord (Wylde Hide 7th) and
followed up by 5 lengths from The Quads at Navan wat five of these opportunits
behind. Leading chance of notating the fast-frick
Glabe Lark Why at Navas and on this thouse 22 months and (shorter trins) and

behind. Leading chance of notching the hist-trick. Glebe Lad; Won at Neas and on this course 12 months ago (whorier tape), and revents to cheaing either a speci over hundles. Twice a winner in heavy ground Hollybanik Buck: Rattled off four-timer lest season when beating Mass Distin and Ryhane at Punchestown. Ren well with claimer when a 6-length 3rd to Ryhane at Newen in November and enjoys 5b pull with Norman Williamson booked. Same claimer aboard since so can improve on latest 11th to Calling Wild. Go Go Gallant: Pulled up behind Ryhane on respectance and little chance today. Teo The Mipper: Well beaten 8th to Calling Wild here last time with Wyide Holds, Una's Choice and Roundwood in front of him. Lucky winner at Fairyhouse lest sensors but excellent 3rd to Time For A Pain in Paddy Power Clear here. ns: First-tence faller when taxourite in Cork hertdicap after novice runs

Lord Neavens: First-tence salar when shouths in Cork hardcap stars nowbe the (won in heavy ground at Limenck, 2m61). Could improve with Ruby Wash booked Native Status: One pace from two out after leading four out when 4th, beaten 8 lengths, to Ryherse at Navan in November, 8th better off here but ran badly be-hind Calling Wild here last time. Oakler: Nea wor in testing ground and gets 9th pull for 9-length beating by Ry-hane at Navan, 9th to Calling Wild here since. Limit's Choles: Stayed on in testing ground to beat Blobbylo in the race last year and 6th better with the rised. Energy of ground short the lattest 3rd to Calling.

and 9th better with this rivel. Fine chance of repeat after the latest 3rd to Calling

ntie Buck: Heavy ground Limerick winner last season but poor form this t Gentife Bucic Heavy ground Limerick winner liest season izur poor gomi use servi Roundwood: Fair effort here lest time when a stayling-on 5th to Calling Wild. Pre-viously 3rd to Nuzum Road Makers at Fairyhouse, Actis well in testing ground VERDICT: As with lest years race plenty line up after contesting the Pacidity Power Crass here. HOLLYBANK BUCK was only 11th that day but he can do better for the riding of Norman Wallamson, and Ryhame was one of his victims when he socied at Punchestown test season. Ryhame has since reversed the form on similar terms and will again be a hisrby rival being fresh, while Une's Choice landed the pace in similar conditions 12 months ago.

LINGFIELD

12.50 Royal Roulette 1.20 Tribal Peace 1.55 Catchthebatch 2.25 Dream On Me 3.00 Stero Heights 3.30 Sammy's Shuffle

GOING: Standard STALLS: 5t - outside; remainder - Inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best up to 71. Equitack surface; left-trand, sharp undulating course.

Course is SE of town on B2028, Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: One enclosure Sto. CAR PARK: Club E3; remainder free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS LEADING TRAINERS; G L Moore 83 wins from 627 runners (32%), R Hannon 47-360 (33%), M Johnston 44-260 (659%), G

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: A Clark 72 wins from 578 rides (12.5%), J Weaver 68-307 (221%), S Sanders 65-563 (11.5%), R Cochrane 52-325 (16%).

FAYOURITES: 695-2077 (335%). LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Erinvale (LSS) and Emwill-

geo (225), have travelled 270 miles. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Otto (visored, 200), Benbury (120). 12.50 FERMANAGH AMATEURS H'CAP (CLASS E) 53,500 added 2m

05321 ROYAL ROULETTE (10) (CD) Mast 8 Sandars 5 11 7 Mass L Sbeen (5) 2
4415 PARADISE NAVY (24) (CD) (BF) G Egenton 10 11 3 Mr. A Bradley (5) 9 8 50(30) BILLY MOONSHINE (10) G L Moore 7 10 11 Jilr I Mongan (5) 4 4040: MAJOR'S LAW (J14) R Strpson 10 10 8 Mes L Volero (7) 8 30/00- ELA-YTE-MOU (J32) L Dace 6 10 1

FORM VERDICT

This can go to PARADISE NAVY, who is still better treated on AW then grass and has proved a good ride for an arreteur in the past. Although disappointing last time, he now meets the runnes-up Royal Routette on 17th better terms as a result of the top weights

1.20 DOWN CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £3,500 added 1m 2f

40006- TRIBAL PEACE (19) (CD) 8 Gubby 78 9 _____ J Quinn 8

SETTING: 9-2 La Lyonesse, 8-1 Flying Eagle, 11-2 Jeru Shrine, Titled Paice, 7-1 Seed Cay, 8-1 Flame Tower, Banbury, Teolillo, Dobernam, 18-1 others

FORM VERDICT

*THE INDEPENDENT

RACING SERVICES

0891 261 +

WOLVERHTON (E) 975 985

ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970

971 961

974 984

973

983

Several of these are proven under the conditions and Java Shrine can prove the pick of them, ahead of Tirthall Peecs, Sand Cay and La Lyconesse. However, FLYING EAGLE can beat them all the takes to the surface, and that chance is worth taking. He has a high crutiang speac, a loy ingredient in many at-weether performers, and Rod Simpson has his horses in fine torm.

1.55 TRACKSIDE CARVERY CLASSIFIED STAKES (F) £2,750 added 3YO 5f

FORM VERDICT

Edmondson strikes again

RICHARD EDMONDSON yesterday extended his lead at

the top of the Racing Post table for newspaper tipsters when

Spa Hill won at 9-2. A £1 daily stake on Edmondson's nap

this jumps season has yielded a profit of £37.18.

This is Besty to reache itself into a dual between GRASSLANDOK and Entweste, with professors for the former who showed planty of page to make a winning debut over this trip at Southwell and who is Body to improve further.

2.25 52,750 added 3YO filles 71

2401-1 DREAM ON SITE (8) (CD) G L Moore 0 10... USO-ROYAL PREVIEW (201) M Bell 9 2 23006- COMPTON AKKA (19) G A Buter 9 1 004- BEBE COSMONAUT (22) A Newcorribe 8 10 S Drowne 11 CODE PRIME SURPRISE (PS) C Dwyer 6 11 ... IT Sprain 12 ..

— 12 declared —

— 12 declared —

Minimum weight: 7xr 10th. Two handlogs weight: Sounds Sweet 7xt 92th SETTING: 2-1 Dreum On Me, 13-2 Restlingpening, 7-1 Starring, 8-1 Compton Aldra, Bobe Coemoratot, Hiddle, 10-1 Sounds Sweet, 12-1 others FORM VERDICT

Although she has to concede lumps of weight all round the hat-trick seeking DREAM ON ME, still tools the one to best from ho-good draw. One or two of her rivels could do better now they are handloopped (four of them have had just the three necessary rums to quality) with Babs Cosmonaut the Baby danger.

3.00 LINGFIELD LOYALTY CARDS MAIDEN STAKES (D) £5,000 added 1m 5f

FORM VERDICT

This may be best left to STERO HEIGHTS, who is the pick on auf form and will be at the better for his hittal experience of this auriscs last week. Such Boldiness has the best form here to his name so has to be feared, with his lightly-raced Royal Aribi most

3.30 ARMAGH HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,500 added 1m 4f

1 2790- DICK TURPIN (USA) (15) (C) 8 Smart 5 10 P... P Dobbs (7) 8
2 4569- FRELDS DF-OMAGH (MS7) (BF) I Baiding 4 9 12. S Whitmorth 1
3 07224- SARELLA GONZAGA (23) (D) R Covel 5 8 8 ... A Culture 4
4 20902- GER BER BOY (HS) O NECOUT 5 9 7 ... R Statistics (7) 8
5 213-0 WAASEF 45) (CD) Mars G Katleway 6 9 5 P Fredericks (7) 7 6
6 06001- '94-TM-HSD (222) G L Moore 4 8 4 ... F Nortoo 5 8
7 081-15 SAMMIN'S SHUFFLE (D) (C) (SF) R Flower 4 8 3 J Quinn 3 8
8 0000-0 JILLY WOO (2) F Hayward 5 7 10... P Dos (5) 2
- Markman weight: 7st 108, Two handlarp weight: Jilly Woo 7st 28c.
BETTING: 5-2 Sammy's Stuffle, 9-2 Fleids Of Omegis, Wassed, 6-1 bastolia Gorcasga, 8-1 Valtatied, 13-2 Gee Bee Bry, 5-1 Dick Tarpin, 50-1
JRY Woo

FORM VERDICT Agood opportunity for SAMMY'S SHUFFLE to recoup lest weeks loseed in this smaller field. Although seemingly too forcefully ridden, he still had Wassel and JiBy Woo a long way in arrears and a reproduction of that form would affil make him the one to bear, leabelle Gonzaga may prove his main rival.

WOLVERHAMPTON

7.00 Mukarrab 7.30 State Wind 8.00 Festive 8.30 Scarlett's Boy 9.00 Bonne Ville 9.30

Pipe Music GOING: Standard

STALLS: 71 - cutside; remainder - Inside ORAW ADVANTAGE: Low best.

Fibreward, left-hand, oval course.

Course is N of town on A448. Wo MISSIONE Club £15; Tettersalis £8 (£2 off for OAP member of Diamond Club); Restaurant package prices £1750 to £3595 196 entrance and meal CAR PARK: free FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

III LEADING TRAINERS: R Hollinsheed 65-546 (119%), M John-aton 44-234 (18,8%), P Evans 40-376 (10,8%), N Litomoden 38-LEADING JOCKEYS: S Sanders 43-311 (138%), Dean McK-eown 35-299 (121%), J Weever 34-200 (17%), O Holland 31-

FAVOURITES: 456-1426 (32%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: State Wind (Meored, 730).

7.00 LATE FESTIVE FUN HANDICAP (CLASS F) 53,000 added 5f

5(5)-1 SICKARPIAB (USA) (7) (D) (I Cropmen 5 107..... A Cultum 3 30560- FEATHERSTONE LANE (34) (CD) Most L Schief 8 109 23354- RETA'S ROCK APE (25) R Brotherton 4 9 10 _____ F Norton 5 2330- MILAS HAUTANIE (23) H STOTE (11 9 TO ________ HORRIN 5 2306- TRIVERTS SUPPRISE (18) (D) J Balding 5 9 0.J Edmunds 13 8 3040- SOTORIAN (HOL) (14) (CD) P Folgolo 8 8 12.S Register (7) 8 50040- BALLASRILA (11) 8 Paing 4 8 9 ______ G Paulioner (3) 7 0300- GENERAL EQUATION (18) (CD) J Balding 6 8 8 N Carllein 2 8 COOKS. MARY HANNAH (14) A Seriot 866_ 00003- NOBLE PATRICT (14) R Holinetess 468 ____T Williams 11

2 Otics DYCE (5) (CD) J Salding 5 8 2 L Chemock 19 8 0 00045 REMITHOUNE (164) (CD) K Ryan 8 8 2 L P Feetery 4 BETTING: 7-2 Solonius, 5-1 Mary Hannath, 8-1 Multarrath, 7-1 Feather stone Lase, Hobie Patriot, 8-1 Rita's Rock Ape, Tinker's Surprise, 10-1

FORM VERDICT

MUKARRAB has been upped it to for his last win but with the second and fiird winners already since, a sizeable hije doesn't look as punitive as it might have been. He may well be up to win-

7.30 CHRISTMAS PAST CLASSIFIED CLAIMING STAKES (F) 52,750 3YO 1m 1f79yds

3050-4 PERICHANCER (S) P Nestern 8 7 Dale Gibeon 2 000-44 ULTRA CALIN (S) P Hestern 9 7 L Chemook 5 0000-3 STATE WHO (S) N Littroder 8 15 T G McLaughlin 1 V

BETTING: 15-8 Perchancer, 5-2 State Wind, 3-1 Lake Motifs, 73-2 Ulers

FORM VERDICT A seler in all out name and with doubts about the current form of most of the runners, not a race to approach with any confidence ULTRA CALM looks the Beliest white, having run respects in better company on Wednesday.

■ Norman Williamson partnered a 481/1-1 double at Towcester yesterday on Annie Buckers and Back On The Lash, and then came unstuck on three odds-on shots, Boots Madden, Goodwood Cavalier and No Quarter.

8.00 CARRY ON PARTYING MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £3,500 added 7f

PESTIVE (40) W Hagges 382.....

34 RENOTTA (10) O Haych Jones 382 F Norton 6 0-SUP OF THE TONIGUE (22) S C Williams 382 July Ornion 6 of The Torque, 10-1 Walting Knight, Ozzle, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT ly on a per with anything else the best of the others can music here, with the probability of improvement to come. She is the like-less winner, with Watting Knight the best alternative.

8.30 DON'T STOP DANCING HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,750 added 3YO 7I

BETTING: 13-8 Flying Officer, 7-2 Polly Mills, Palace Green, 4-1 Soulet's Boy, 11-2 Woot U There

POLLY MRLLS has shaped as if this extra furiong will suit her and, fairly weighted on her best form, has solid prospects in a trappy little race. All of the others have chances too; Flying Officer may

9.00 HDLD THE CRACKERS SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,000 added 1m 4f 2705- BANKERET (14) (CD BF) Miss S Witton 8.03 ... S Whitenest 1111 41
2800- BAPSFORD (14) (CD M Wisning 5.93 R Price 7
2801-5 BONKE VILLE (7) (CD) (BF) Miss S Witton 5.93 ... T Sprains 2
6004- CLASSIC COLOURS (184) (5) G Yarday 8.93 ... Y Stateny 4
2000-FORMICABLE FAME (180) (BF) G Hart 6.93 ... J Christony 4
2000-FORMICABLE FAME (180) (BF) G Hart 6.93 ... J Parkers 6
0000-G DANZIG FLYER (7) 8 Baugh 4 6 3 A Cultime 1
04443- DLIBBELING (138) G Statened - 8 declared -

Beclared —
 B

Only three of these have ever won a race and they are the ones to concentrate on. Sonne Ville is the weakest of the three and though Bapatond is the pick on his his latest run, he is not one to trust implicitly. As such, the way may be clear for BANNERET, who has a solid chance on his best form, in any case.

9.30 MDRE MAGIC HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 46yds

20021- NOUFARI (28) (C) (D) R Hollminers 8 10 0__P M Onless (7) 4 22331 GREINSMAN (197) (C) Mins S Wilton 7 8 5 T Spreads 2 04200 SUDEST (J21) I Balang 5 8 8 S Wildworth 5 5841-4 MINITA'S STAR (S) (C) M Britain 8 8 3 G Bandwell 1 5 3245-2 PIPE MUSIC (5) P Hastern 489

BETTING: 2-1 Pipe Music, 5-2 Nouferl, 3-1 Mikita's Star, 5-1 Gree

PIPE MUSIC has only one win to his name from 15 starts but in the pick of the weights on his emproved last-time-out run when elopped up to this trip for the first time, and looks the one to best. Noutled is next best.

		2	.20	LADBROKE HANDICAP HURDLE (Grade 1) £75,000 added 2m Penalty Value £48,975	Z
í		1		POLAR PROSPECT (21) (D) (ER Yeles) P Hobbs (GB) 6 % 12	
İ	1	2	15-005	ARCHEVE FOOTAGE (28) (D) (Or Michael W Smurtin D Weld 7 tt 8	ņē
ł	1	3		ADMOCAT (27) (CD) (High Street Reong Synct) N Meede 9 11 5P Carl mould prent 6 yellow quanered, progress stylenes, yellow armist, striped cap	746
l		Ł	13-25	GENEROSA (13) (D) (Ms T Hyde) J Hassett 6 11 5 FM I	4
Ì	1	5	1-3102	SHANTAFRO (11) (CD) (Ms G Donohoe) S Donohoe S 11 5 X P.Ga	مار
İ		8	3-1455		İgr
I		7	404053	BLACK CREEK (12) (C) (10) (Harry Politholer) J Roby 8 11 8	y (
l		8	5F-503	NEW NN (28) (D) (an K Stowart) S Gollings (DB) 8 tl 3 FJF menon, white cross of lamping and armides, white cap, mercon depond	ίσο
۱	1	9	13-033	FISHIN JOELLA (21) (D) (C A Beley) N Mende 7 11 2	
ĺ	- 1	10	220-W	SADLETS REALM (26) (b) (BF) (B O Recing) P Hobbs (38) S 11 2	-
l	1	TÎ	1105-4	ARCTIC WEATHER (8) (D) (Richard Bonzel M J O'Brien 10 11 0	igπ
Į	1	12	0-F042	ight blue, brown star, light blue cap, brown star IMPULSIVE DREAM (12) (CD) (Scott Lloyd) E O'Grady 8 11 0	40
Ī	1	13	402000	dark great, gray diamond, diabolo on sleeves, gray cap, dark green star KHARRABAR (12) (D) (John P McManus) C Roche 5 11 0	ob
l	1	u	31-322	SAWA-ID (28) (D) (8P) (Hor Sarah Lanson) M J O'Brien 8 10 13T P R	ori
l	İ	5	2F1122	brown, red cross of lunains 6 sleeves, quantered cap PALETTE (27) (0) (0F) (Mayden Syndicale) W P Mc5ns 7 10 12	
İ	ŀ	16	-15341	GAN SARU (F62) (D) (John Joseph Flynn) P Flynn 8 10 10 R Ban	,
١	1	¥	0-1123	chirt blue, white epaciation, stiped alteres 6 cap DARAMEEN CHIEF (Ed) (D EF) (A Nichamara) A Nichamara 7 (18hir J Nichamar light blue, marcon asama, quarresed cap	ø
l	ŀ	15	2235-0	REGENCY RANG (Rez) (D) (Mrs J J McGetigen) A L T Moore 7 10 8 C O'Di royal blue, white clawron 6 charante on alterest, white cap	,
ı		9	160121	MYXON GOLD (35) (O) (Festival Syndicate) W P Muling 6 10 7	•
l	12	20	21-P00	PENNY NATIVE (86) (CD) (Fank Corroy) A L T Moore 7 to 7T P Tre	ec,
l	1	Ħ	2-1023	SLANEY NATIVE (14) (D) (David H.L. Nugant) Mrs J. Humington 6 10 4 3 J. Gerrey emerald green, white distracted, white cap, emerald green distracted	ì
ı	1	22	283221	ITS TIME FOR A WIN (23) (D) (John Kenny) W P Mullins 7 (0.9	
l	18	3	00-006	MO AVAIL (14) (C) (D) (Mrs P Mallins) P Mallins 8 9 13 D McCallegifi tiert grey 8 white stripes, overige cap, grey issued	(3
	12	*	0-6061	VNO (12) (LDh P McManus G Roche 8 8 15 GFS: amenati green 8 owinge hooped, while cap KANACTAY (9) (D) (H A Campbell O Hudies 7 9 12 KANACTAY (9) (D) (H A CAMPBELL O HUDIES 7 9 12 KANACTAY (9) (D) (H A CAMPBELL O HUDIES 7 9 12 KANACTAY (9) (D) (H A CAMPBELL O HUDIES 7 9 12 KANACTAY (9) (D) (H A CAMPBELL O HUDIES 7 9 12 KANACTAY (9) (D) (H A CAMPBELL O HUDIES 7 9 12 KANACTAY (9) (D) (H A CAMPBELL O HUDIES 7 9 12 KANACTAY (9) (D) (H A CAMPBELL O HUDIES 7 9 12 KANACTAY (9) (D) (H A CAMPBELL O HUDIES 7 9 12 KANACTAY (9) (D) (H A CAMPBELL O HUDIES 7 9 12 KANACTAY (9) (D) (H A CAMPBELL O HUDIES 7 9 12 KANACTAY (9) (D) (H A CAMPBELL O HUDIES 7 9 12 KANACTAY (9) (D) (H A CAMPBELL O HUDIES 7 9 12 KANACTAY (9) (D) (H A CAMPBELL O HUDIES 7 9 12 KANACTAY (9) (D) (H A CAMPBELL O HUDIES 7 9 12 KANACTAY (9) (D) (H A CAMPBELL O HUDIES 7 9 12 KANACTAY (9) (D) (H A CAMPBELL O HUDIES 7 9 12 KANACTAY (9) (D) (H A CAMPBELL O	-
	1	5		royal blue, red braces 6 chovions on sleaves, red cap - 25 declared -	Ωy
	1	ET I	un weigi NG: 8-1	nt: 9et 12tb. True handicep weight: Kamestsy 9st 5tb. Advocat, 6-1 kmpuletve Dream, 8-1 Slamey Native, 12-1 Regency Raite, Space	
	1 7	,,,,,	T-1 (35)	country of the Communication o	-60
		Pol	ar Pros	FORM GUIDE	
	}	to I	Pealings	pact: William Hill Hurdle winner from Serenus (won since) and fine 2nd over trip too far at Utitoster (2m4f). Big weight to defe but once len	1

ings over trip too far at Uttoxeter (2m4f). Big weight to defy but race len't

to reasings over trip too lar at commonst palling, and Save-Id at both Palryhouse strong.

Archive Footage: Behind Black Queen at Galway, and Save-Id at both Palryhouse and Naven. May struggle with the weight in the unautable ground Advocat: Stayed on in 5th to Graphic Equaliser in the race test year and later 2nd to Blowing Wind in County Hurdle at Chellertham. Made installes in closing stages when beating Palette on reappearance at Thurles. Fine chance in weight renewat Generous. Decent novice (three wins) and both runs this term over 3m. Steyer on the Flat so may find 2m here too strain.

Shantarint: Outclassed against Istabraq here over Christmas on first start for over two months. Held by Black Queen on Galway running and may find ground too testing.

testing

Black Queen: Finished strongly to beat Tidjani and Shentarini at Galway in July
but held on subsequent form by Sawe-Id and Impulsive Dream
Gazzalant: Outclassed against Istabreq here 11 days ago and now a stone better
off with Shantarini (2nd). May lock the page on this sharp course
Naw that: Creditable 3nd to Effectual and Zarelasies at Donocaster last time. Most

off wart smartaring (200), way seek the paste on the anarp course. New limit: Creditable 3rd to Effectual and Zarakaska at Doncaster last time. Most, what on faster ground but beat House Of Dreams in the soft at Wetherby, Very rough Fishin Joella: Stablemate of Advocat and letest win gained over 2m8f. Well best-en 3rd to Commanche Court at Navan (2m4f) last time and likely to find trip too

short
Sedier's Reater: Raced over longer tripe nowedays and latest Chapetow win boosted by World Express and Kibride Lad. Bigger weight at Haydock afterwards when 4th to Churchtown Glen. In fine heart and still Improving Arctic Weather: Second taxourite and hampered to this race last year, Has reverted to lences since and will be litter for his 4th to linis Cara at Tramore Imputative Oreans: Acts well in the mud and latest win gained over course and detance. 6-length 2nd to Limestone Lad here last time with Black Queen and Khairaber leathing.

Character Charger and a Limestone Lad here least time after 11th to Polar Prospect behind (Rhebrabar: Only 10th to Limestone Lad here least time after 11th to Polar Prospect Standown (now 12th behind of Sava-Id: Creditable pieced runs this season against Hill Society. Lisa's Storm and Limestone Lad (withrer again since). Has won in heavy ground and ew claims today Palette: Winning novice chaser who reverted to fundes with a 2nd to Advocat (easy witner) at Thurles. Only 21b better off so needs to Improve plenty to reverse the

form Seru: Best Derbels S-lengths in weeldsh race at Punchestown in early-Nogan Seru: Best Derbels S-lengths in weeldsh race at Punchestown in early-Nogan Seru: Best Derbels S-lengths in weeldsh race at Punchestown in early-Nobersheen Chieft. Ex-bumper horse and a hundles winner over further. Seemed to
find 2m too sheep at Commel test time when 3rd to Classh Of The Gales
Regency Resket Latest start on the Flat in November. Gets 8th pull for about 2lengths with Sedler's Resim on Sandown form test asseson. From lest year's winling ground and could go well again in this stronger race
Panny Native: Little promise this season but a course winner fixely to improve.
Stable has good record in the race
Stable has good record in the race
Stanley Native: Stiff task when 3rd to Joe Mec here over Christmas and serier
best big field in maiden at Punchestown. Has chance off low weight
Is Tisse For A Wire Duel bumper winner and seemingly with little hope
Now. Well Taled off on latest two states and seemingly with little hope

Nation. Stiffer task today

No Avell: Talect off on latest two starts, and seemingly with little hope

Vivoc Well backed in maiden hundle here 12 days ago and won sessiy from Crocked

Agan. Previously 10 lengths behind Sewa-Id at Fairyhouse and now 2th better

Kamarctay: Dual winner at Fairyhouse this season (best 28 rivale on first occaacc.). Stiffer test today but seems to be on upgrade

VERDICT: The race is several leagues weaker compared to last year so Advocat is in with a shout so improve on his fifth, about with 19th more on his back with the latter preferred in his current good form, help probably better over a bit turner but the ground will slow down planty of these and Sadler's Real M turner but the ground will slow down planty of these and Sadler's Realm will reliable the condisons.

11 ran. 14, 14, 27, det. (Miss Z Davison, Woldingham). Tota: £720; £180, £160, £140, DF: £1170. CSF: £2163. Tricast: £79.77, The winner was bought in for 2,600gns. 2.50: (2m 4yo hurde) 1. DMOWSKI _____

1.50: (2m novice hundle) 1. BACK ON THE LASH_N WIEGERS

RESULTS _R Widger 15-1 3. El Fuerte — Il Viriger 18-1. Also ren: 4-5 fev Goodwood Cavaller (unseated rider), 8-1 Magni Momenti (48th), 25-1 Ruby Bear. 6 ran. 20, 8, 25, N Twiston-Davies, Chel-tenham). Robe: £3.30; £180, £2.60. DF.

£1-20 CSF: £25.73 3.20: (2m 110yds handicap chase)
1. 8EATSON B Powell 9-4 fev
2. Cool Spot R Thornton 11-4
3. Mr Bejangles D Gallagher 13-2
Also ran: 4-1 Machaini (4th), 5-1 John
Drumm, 5 ran. 5, 27, S (R Bucklet, Bridgott),
Toha: \$2.80, \$2.20, £180. DF: \$4.50. CSF;
£775. NRt. Beyond Our Reach, Mr Jervis.

3.50: (2m NH flat race)
1. ARALVINO ______R Gentity 7-2
2. Brockton Gien _____B Powell 9-1
3. Wellington _____M A Pitzgerald 14-1 Also ran: 10-11 fav No Citarior (publied up), 11-2 Ballynabragget (4th), 10-1 Atto, 33-1 Molfycarrisheddast (5th), Weldegiti (8th), 8 rdn. 25, 21/h, 2, dist, 5, (F Weldegiti (8th), 8 rdn. 25, 21/h, 2, dist, 5, (F Weldegiti (8th), 9 rdn. 25, 21/h, 2, dist, 5, (F Weldegiti (8th), 17 rds: 5450; \$120, \$170, \$220, DF; \$3440.

Place 6: C1698, Place 5: C1098.

Going: Good to Soft

1.00: 1. MITHAK (FI Johnson) 11-4 text, 2.
Country Kins 16-1: 3. Stormahil: Stag 6-1.
17 ran. 6. rk. (D. Nicholson, Tempie Guit-Ingl. Total: \$450; \$280, \$280, \$280, \$260, \$270, \$280,

3.30: 1. PICKET PIECE (R Johnson) 10-1; 2. Briggs Turn 8-1; 3. Rajed 10-1 14 ren. 1/4, 1/4. (D Nicholson, Temple Guiting) Totac £1350; 5450, £250, £360, DF; £2660, CSF; LUDLOW 1630, 4501, 4501, 2501, 2601, DF, 12860, CSF. 8514. Tricast 1280, 70. 4.00: 1. SANDY DUFF (J Osborne) 5-2; 2. 14 ren. d. 114. (P Webbe, Barbury), Tota: 13.30: £140, £260, £170, DF, £550, CSF. 688 Pisce & 260.56. Pisce 5: £25.38. SOUTHWELL

> 12.40: 1. TURRILL HOUSE (J Ouim) 8-1; 2. Pertamps Mission 13-8 fay; 3. Maritun 8-1 10 ran. 'A. 2 (W Musson) Tota: C3.70; C48, C420, E330, DF: C850, CSF: £1510. Tricast EADA. 1.10: 1. PALAIS (J Cuirri) 8-11 fev; 2. Tragle Dencer 3-1: 3. Zola 7-2 0 ran. 11/4, 1/4. (J L Harris) Tota: £170; £140; £150 DF: £380, CSF: £259 Dr. 1280 Cer. 1283. 1.40; 1. SUE ME (P Carle) 5-2; 2. Trojan Hero 8-1; 3. Potter Miet. 13-2: 10 ran. 15-8 fav Eton Ladger (4th), 14, nk. (D Michols). Tolar: 1520; 11-30, 12-30, 12-40, DF: 120-80. CSF: 122-86.

2.10: 1. TOM TUN (T WEIssun) 12-1; 2. Meilia 14-1; 3. John Bowdler Music 9-2 faz, 13 ran. 1/4, nk. (Mag J Crazo), Tota: TSAO; 2500, E340, 2120. DF: 2980. CSF: E18653. Ticast: E30255. Nft. Octor. 2-40: 1. WEISTMAN'S WEIGH (A Culture) 4-1 | 1 faz; 2. Son 1s Malin 14-1; 2. Live Project 6-1. 10 ran. 4-1 | 1 faz; 2. Live Project 6-1. 10 ran. 4-1 | 1 faz; 2. Son 1s Malin 14-1; 2. Live Project 6-1. 10 ran. 4-1 | 1 faz; 2. Son 1s Malin 14-1; 2. Live Project 6-1. 10 ran. 4-1 | 1 faz; 2. Son 1s Malin 14-1; 2. Live Project 6-1. 10 ran. 4-1 | 1 faz; 2. Son 1s Malin 14-1; 2. Live Project 6-1. 10 ran. 4-1 | 1 faz; 2. Stution Gai 5-1; 3. E 8 Peerl 33-1 (5 ran. 5-5 fax Sounds Solo (Sth.). 2/4, nk. (D Micholis). Tota: 22.20, 21:20, 22:20. DF: 28:20. CSF: 28:30. Winner bought in tor 5400 guilress. Winner bought in the 5,400 guiness.

3.40: 1. SPA LANE (J Culm) 9:2 2. Coleridge 5:1; 3. Mustlark 14-1, 10 ran. 4-1 fav Copper Sholl (Stih), 2, 3. (Mrs S Lamyman), Tota: ESTO, E10, 63:60, E5:20, DF: 255:10. CSF. 25:40. Tricast: 1274:67.

Richard Johnson, who starts a 14-day whip ban next week, rode a 144-1 treble aboard Mithak, Noisy Miner and Picket Piece for his boss David Nicholson at Ludlow yesterday.

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IDEPENDENT, day 9 January 1999

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Solid evidence puts ISTICS 15°s), A L T Moore 29.53 (E), 1 C O'Dwyer 19.33 (KS2%) 1 C O'Dwyer 19.33 (KS2%) 1 C O'Dwyer 19.33 (KS3%) 1 -82 (13.4%) (KS3%) F Moore case for Advocat

The former top jump jockey Steve Smith Eccles analyses today's Ladbroke Hurdle



10-YEAL

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Stick Outer 61 1-1 18-1 16-1 16-1

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20-1 20-1 20-1 16-1 20-1

C Cont H Wilson Hit L Lachnics S Starley 1 for

Polar Prospect: No horse Palette: Soundly beaten by has carried more than 11st Advocat last time and little 8lb to win this race so he faces a huge task off 11st 12lb. Archive Footage: No worthwhile form this season. Advocat: Solid form behind

Blowing Wind at Cheltenham

and Bellator at Aintree. Generosa: Drop back to two miles will not suit this stayer. Shantarini: Second to the mighty Istabraq last time hut the form looks flattering. Black Queen: Beaten by several of today's rivals and unlikely to reverse the form. Gazalani: No possible chance on current form.

land for Steve Gollings but this wili be no fairy tale. Fishin Joella: Placed at two and a half miles on last two runs but may be outpaced. Sadler's Realm: Secondstring for Philip Hobbs. Looks up against it.

New Inn: First runner in Ire-

Arctic Weather: Past it at the age of t0.

Impulsive Dream: Subject of an ante-post gamble, he beat Advocat at Leopardstown last March and money talks. Khairabar: No worthwhile form in past four runs. Sawa-Id: Game little horse with too much on his plate.

12.55 NORSKI LAD (nap)

chance of reversing form. Gan-Saru: Won at Punchestown last time and has each-way claims.

Daraheen Chief: Outsider who will do well to figure. Regency Rake: Could lack fitness after a six-month break. Mykon Gold: Backed from 25-1 to 16-1 this week and could get into the frame.

Penny Native: Has no worthwhile recent form. Slaney Native: Relishes soft ground and should go well. fts Time For A Win: Will not do as his name suggests. No Avail: Appropriately

Vivo: With Charlie Swan on board, he has to be respected, but looks out of his class. Kamactay: On a hat-trick but will struggle to lower the colours of some better rivals.

Conclusion: ADVOCAT has rock-solid credentials and should not be inconvenienced by the heavy ground. Impulsive Dream commands respect after ante-post support, while the lightweights Mykon Gold and Slaney Native could fight for the minor placings.

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R-TALE	ON	THI	M	LDI	MAY	I/CI	AZA	LET	CH	IASE
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PUNTERS' GUIDE

Profit or los ercentage of winners placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in lest race: 75% Shortest-priced winner: flushing Wild (1993) evens Top jackey: A Maguré - On The Twist (1992), Superior Finch (1986)

FIRST SHOW LEOPARDSTOWN 2.20 LEOPARDSTOWN 1.45 C K L S 1 14 M 61 14 62 Wyele Hide 92 51 41 92 114 reputsive Drawn 81 FI 81 9-1 F-2 Lard Heavens 11-2 11 2 61 51 51 Samey Name 61 61 91 61 57 Una's Choice 7-1 5-2 61 7-1 6-1 Gan Saru 14-1 2-1 14-1 2-1 14-1 Holybank Buck 91 81 51 91 9 Mykon Gold E1 E1 14-1 E-1 11-1 141 141 141 24 14 Wes C1 24 144 24 24 141 21 B1 21 194 Tell The Mapper 141 141 141 21 21 Gebe Led 41 141 21 21 151 21 Maske States 41 51 51 51 201 11 11 11 164 161 Regercy Rate 18.1 18.1 12.1 16-1 18.1 Special 41 161 E1 161 WI 201 201 251 251 251

Patrin Joella 29-1 29-1 10-1 20-1 25-1	Go Go Gotton: 251 251 251 251 351
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Daraheen Charl 40-1 40-1 40-1 40-1 40-1	Gather iste 7-1 13-2 11-2 61 6-1
New Jan 50-1 50-1 50-1 40-1 50-1	Batty's Boy 61 61 7-1 7-1 5-1
	Oom Samoural 12-1 11 9-1 12-1 12-1
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SANDOWN

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2.00: This should be a match between KURAKKA and Country Beau, the latter a casualty when Kurakka was so impressive at Ascot

2.30: Behrajan will attract support after a runaway triumph on his British debut but that was at Warwick and he faces a hugely stiffer task here against the unbeaten HIDEBOUND. A 17-leogth victory in a Grade 2 at Ascot last time is easily the best form on offer and Hidebound still has plenty of potential.

3.05: In an open race, FLAKED OATS is unexposed and can make the most of the weight he receives from his betterknown rivals. He will have no difficulty with the ground and trip, conditions which will also however favour the Welsh National winner Kendal Cavalier. Below form so far this term. Call It A Day returns to the scene of his greatest triumph, in the Whithread Gold Cup.

3.40: The bottom-weight ROYRACE should reoresent good value on his best form, which was registered on his first two starts this season. You have to forgive one disappointing run since. but this second chance at further than 2m4f should suit him. Few of the remainder can be ruled out confidently; with Bowles Patrol twice a winner already this season, particularly likely to figure in the shake-up.

HYPERION'S

TV TIPS

LEOPARDSTOWN

1.45: LORD HEAVENS. who came to grief at the first fence on his most recent outing at Cork, is not the most fluent of jumpers but he acts on heavy going and had earlier looked a useful chaser in the making when winning a povice chase at Limerick on his jumping debut before finishiog 21/2 leogths third to Inis Cara in a decent cootest at Fairyhouse. Ryhane, a progressive sort who picked up handicaps at Wexford and Navan before returning to Navan to win a Grade Two contest on his most recent start, is the pick of the weights but is unproven on heavy ground. Wylde Ride. who returned to form last time, is best of the others.

Lisa's Storm to a short-head in a competitive t7-runner event at Fairyhouse before being far from disgraced in finishing six-lengths second to the useful Limestone Lad at Navan, goes well on heavy ground and makes each-way appeal. Advocat also goes in the mud but is rather a short price, while Generosa looks well treated and goes in the mud but would ideally want further. Impulsive Dream is another mudlark who should go well, while British challeogers Polar Prospect and Sadler's Realm could also figure.

2.20: SAWA-ID, who ran

America's Cup push founders

BRITAIN WAS yesterday tantalisingly close to securing its place in the America's Cup after a gap of 13 years. But two days of intense negotiations between the Spirit of Britain syndicate and major oew backers still failed to conclude months of speculation and an increasingly frantic search for funding.

And it leaves the group. which represents a challenge officially lodged by the Royal Dorset Yacht Club, little time to build the first of what is boped to be two boats in time to begin racing against up to 10 other challengers in Auckland in October tt is the winner of this Louis Vuitton Cup series that goes forward as sole challenger to the defeoding New Zealanders in February 2000.

But much of the design work by Ian Howlett has already been completed in a sophisticated computer programme supported by Silicon Graphics, and work po the mast and rigging has been pushing ahead under the direction of British Aerospace. A team of boatbuilders is standing by and there have been two offers of facilities in which to huild the boat, the most likely being in Weymouth.

Details had still to he announced last night, but it is believed that, in a deal brokered by the Royal Yachting Association and Sir Tim Bell, agreement was reached oo hoth shareholdings and management in a restructured syndicate. This would pave the way for multi-million pound funding and allow the syndicate to apply for further funding from central

sources such as the Lottery. However, a three-page document of refined proposals was still shuttling between lawyers on both sides. The meetings now involve principals, although the prospective skipper.

SAILING BY STUART ALEXANDER

Lawrie Smith, is in Melbourne for the Soling world championships, so no resolution is expected until early next week. Mike Golding is delaying his

decision on whether to continue in the Around Alone Race until damage to the hull and swinging keel hydraulics is assessed. Golding's 60ft Team Group 4 ran aground 140 miles from the finish of the second leg from Cape Town to Auckland. His enforced retirement as the



Smith: Possible skipper

boat was towed to the repair yard means he cannot win the

Olympic silver medallist Ben Ainslie revelled in the breezy conditions of Melbourne's Port Phillip Bay yesterday, winning the third race of the Laser world championship as most of the other classes were ordered to stay ashore. In the second flight, Queensland's Brendan Casey won, with the Brazilian gold medallist of 1996, Robert Scheidt, pushing up to third.

1,25 Hurricane Lamp 3.05 Flaked Oats 3.40 Royrace

GOING: Chase course - Soft (Good to Soft in places): Hurdies course - Soft.

Right-hand course; seven testing fences along back straight; run-in of 300yds.

Gourse in A307, 4m 3 of Kingston, Esher station (service from London, Walerloo)

As joing course Check brochure for all proces. ADMISSION; Cab. 577, Junior Cub. (1721yrs) \$14; Grandstand & Paddock \$12; Park enclosure \$5. CAR PARK: Free parking FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

SANDOWN

HYPERION

2.30 Hidebound

LEADING TRAINERS: O Nicholson 19-93 (204%), J Old 17-50 (34%), N Henderson 14-92 (152%), P Hobbs 13-49 (265%), J Gifford 12-118 (102%), P Nicholson 11-34 (226%), LEADING JOCKEYS: R Ownwoody 29-119 (244%), A P McCoy 18-91 (189%), A Maguire 17-84 (202%), J Qaborne 15-77 (185%), M A Fitzgenild 14-108 (13%). FAVOURITES: 119-335 (343%) BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Telleporky (visored, 340).

۱	1	.55 FAIRLAWNE HURDLE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 4	IYC
Ì	2	TITZ HIT AND FUM (FR) (29) (CO) (SF) (G Schrön & Mass J Krid M Pipe 11 7 . A P Mo 1 "NORSKI LAD (8) (Derek Milard) P Nobols 11 4	Coy
I	3	421 BOBORANT (22) (D) (Free's Miles) J Aleftest 11 4 S Dea AYEM (F197) (Coin Cota Weedon) C Weedon ti 0 R Thor	reck mark
l	5 6 .	2 PLUE ROYAL (FR) (F7) (Lynn F/Rsort) N Henderson 11 0	واحد بطر
l	7 6	O JAMORIN DANCER (12) (M.C Barks) M Barks Tr. D	allym
ŀ	10	5220 SHERGANZAR (8) (Antony Softoniou) O Sherwood 11 0	toly

FORM GUIDE

Hit And Run: Bold front-runner who jumps well. Winner at Newton Abbot, Sedgefield, Chellenham and Sandown. 2½ lengths second to Tom Paddington at Chelenham (2mt), good to soft) reprosents leading juvenete form progressive stayer on Rat. Sold 62,000 guineae. 4-S. easily beat Laffah 73, a distance in 10-runner race at Exerce (2mt) heavy) on impressive hurding debut. Faster ground here probably not ideal, but looks top prospect. Roboreard: 7 lengths second to Dangerus Precedent at Fortwell believe being OutNAbout. 2 lengths at Lingfeld, both 2m on heavy. Something to find. Ayens, Modest maiden at up to Irin on Rat in Irotend, sold IR 3,000 guineae. Blue Royalt, Hiad two runs on Fist in Irotend, sold IR 3,000 guineae. Blue Royalt, Hiad two runs on Fist in Irotend, sold IR 3,000 guineae. Blue Royalt, Hiad two runs on Fist in Irotend, sold IR 3,000 guineae. Blue Royalt, Hiad two runs on Fist in Irotend, sold IR 3,000 guineae. High winner on Fist in Irotend, sold IR 3,000 guineae. High winner on Fist in Irotend, sold IR 3,000 guineae. High Royalt IR Blue Royalt IR Irotend IR IRotend IRotend IR IROTend IR IROTend IR IROTend FORM GLIDE

VERDICT: On form evidence from this side of the Chemiel, this is between HIT AND RUN and Norski Lad. Formerly with Mark Prescott, Norski Lad could hardly have made a better impression on his first run for the Paul Nicholls stable at Exeter eight days ago. He could go off at a short price, however, and hit And Run will present a stem test.

1.25 MAY BURTON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 8) £12,000 added 2m Penalty Value £8,036

himmum weight: 10st, True hardicep weights: Green Green Desert Set 13tb, Humbern Lamp Set 12tb. Cyborg De Beadel Set 10tb. BETTING: 15-6 Green Green Desert, 2-1 Stormy Pessage, 7-2 Or Royal, 6-1 Humbern Lamp, 12-1 nale Forte 6 10 3 8 Powell 9-4 (J Adam) 8 ran

FORM GUIDE

To Reyat: Talented but unenthusasho, worst display when refusing to tace at all on intest appearance. Never-dangerous soft to Direct Route here intre before Stormy Peasages Broke blood vessel once last term. Unraced over 2m for two years. Has found little on several occasions over 2m4, as when favourse in Tingleprint Gold Cup at Chellentham in December. Below form on heavy gong last time. Green Green Desert: Used to find little, but appearantly a reformed character for new stable. Successful in good syste over this trip last two starts in smallest fields at Chellentham (from Hurricane Lamps and Newbury (soft). Hurricane Lamps: Has yet to fulfil his promise, largely because he has been a clumpy jumper. 2b higher here than on he first two starts this time, when 7 lengths ascond to Green Green Desert at Cheltentham and non-stepes over 2m4 at Ascot Cyborg de Beaufait. Formerly a good performer in France but has accomplished it to off slightly higher marks than this in his time handcap runs in Britain.

VERDICT: None of these five can be relied on GREEN GREEN DESERT won well. FORM GUIDE

VERDICT: None of these sires into in its surrer nanocap runs in Britain.

VERDICT: None of these sive can be reled on GRIEEN GRIEEN DESERT won well in two pretty uncompetitive races and the may not lake much winning either. He just gets the vots, with Stormy Passage an interesting contender dropped in trip and Hurricane Lamp a live danger if he can sort out his jumping.

[2	2.00	PUNTERS CLUB NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 26,000 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £4,241	C4
1	ಡಿಗು	COUNTRY BEAU (21) (C) (BF) (Nrs J J Pepperi) J King 7 ft 12 A lifety bye, when stope and armiels	NCCoy
2		KURAKKA (21) (Mrs. M.C. Sweeney) J. Giford 6 11 12	inwoody
3	434-1P	ACT IN TIME (10) (II) (Ar. G C McFerran) T George 7 11 4	T Janks
4	0214-3	NORMANIA (NZ) (38) (0) (Coldinations Racing Lief) Ness S Edwards 7 11 4 _ dark blue and white straces, white steames, dark blue armices	L Aspet
5	511-03		itrys-raid

BETTING: evens Kuratika, 2-1 Country Beau, 4-1 Mokouril, 14-1 Act in Time, 20-1 Normania 1998 Cylor Multa S Ti 1 A P McCoy 5-6 tay (M Pipe) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Country Beaut; Smart over hurdes Won in good style at Tauriton (2m3), good) on chasing debut, 3-1 co-lavourite in the Grade 2 event at Ascot won by Kurakia but unseased at the ninth when travelling well

Kurakias Smartpang chase sort. Beal Collier Bay on chose debut at Towcester (2m),
7-2, jumped very well to beat Strong Palachin 10 lengths at Ascot (2m3), again good to
soft is following month. Looks clearly the one to beat
Act in Timer. Returned with 3-length wen over Mouse Brd at Cheltenham (2m3), good
10 soft), making at Looked to Tave potential but poor effort last time.
Normania: Modest hurder, Smilar form when 10% lengths third of four to Native Charm
on chasing debut at Puription (2m2), good to soft). Stiff tosk
Mailtouriet, Very good form over hurdes in France. Edgy and sweating when well-beaten third to smart. Toto Toscalo at Ascot over hurdes on British debut. VERDICT: The strapping NURANICA put up such an accomplished performance to win at Ascot that he cannot be opposed. Country Beau is certainly a danger, however, as he was capable of this sort of form over hundles. Makeuriji was a talented indi-

vt	dual in France but is best workhed after her debut run at Ascot.
2	.30 TOLWORTH HURDLE (Grade 1) (CLASS A) C4
1	1-222 BEAU (11) (D) (BF) (Mrs 5 Tentoni N Tension-Davies 6 ft 7
2	231FIP ELDUIS (FR) (12) (BF) (D A Johnson) M Pipe 7 11 7
3	GREAT CRUSADER (F1204) (Ats Berbera Hogen) R Rove 7 11 11
4	1-Ti HIDEBOUND (21) (D) (W V 6 Mrs. E. Robins) N Henderson 7 Ti 7 M A Riagnosi orange, black equables, black and orange stoped sleeves, black cap, orange stor
5	43-312 JUNIGLI (14) (D) (BF) (Ms P Starkey) P R Webber 6 to 7
8	 BEHRAJAN (21) (D) (The Behrajon Partineshipi N Day 4 10 9 R. Durwood yellow, purple and yellow strong sterven pullow, purple of declared.
6ET	TING: 4-11 Hidebound, 7-1 Behrsjan, 9-1 Bees, Jungs, 20-1 Blooks, 53-1 Greet Cristader Franch Holly 7 11 7 A Thomas 4-1 (F Musphy) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE

Beau: Won combrabby at Newton Abbot (2mt), soft) in December Second since to All Gong (a stable companion of Hidebound) at Chetreinium and Tonoco at Haydock. May do better in time, but will probably have to settle for a place here Blouls; Winner over tences in France in 1998. Favourite on first run for two years but was pulled up (beaten 5 out) over 2mt at Chepstow on British debut (ay-off Hidebound: Unbeaten and impressive in Chetreiniem bumper and nonce hundes at Newbury and Ascot (2m, soft), melting all to beat Renzo by 17 lengths less time. Scopey sort with begs of potential, Will be very hard to beat. lungit: 8-13 and won by a distance at Uttovetor (2m, heavy) in December. Made most when head second to Gredon Durt at Kenpson (2m, soft). Promising Sehrejam: Classic-bred but was beatien on Pitat in France. 20-1, very impressive to win 18-runner novice hundle at Warwick (2m, soft) by 14 lengths from Mas Film VERDICT: It will be a surple if HIDEBOUND fals to take high rank among the season's novice hunders and he should take this en route. Easy Warwick winner Behrajan is the most likely alternative winner, because that much lower grade event so clearly tailed to establish any limit to his ability.

3.05 ANTHONY MILDMAY, PETER CAZALET H'CAP CHASE (B) £30,000 3m 5f 110yds £19,994 C4 1P1-21 KENDAL CAVALIER (12) (D) (Nictoel Wingfeld Digby) N Heade 9 Ti 6 B Featon pink, black chevore and amiles, quoriered dep pink, black chevore and amiles, quoriered dep pink, black chevore and amiles, quoriered dep pink blue, emend green star 22-051 GUTTER ISLE (14) (Nis Temotry Philagrap) J Gibror 9 10 9 Philametria (14) (Nis Temotry Philagrap) J Gibror 9 10 9 Philametria (14) (Nis Temotry Philagrap) J Gibror 9 10 9 Philametria (14) (Nis Temotry Philagrap) J Gibror 9 10 9 Philametria (14) (Nis Temotry Philagrap) J Gibror 9 10 9 Philametria (14) (Nis Temotry Philametria (15) (Nis Temotry Philametria (15) (Nis Temotry Philametria (15) (Nis Temotry Philametria (15) (Nis Temotry Philametria (15) (Nis Temotry Philametria (15) (Nis Temotry Philametria (15) (Nis Temotry Philametria (15) (Nis Temotry Philametria (16) (Nis Temotry Philame

- 9 declared - 9 Annuam weight: 10st. Two hand/cop weight Say Lucky Sct 10ts.
BETTING: 4-1 Call It A Day, 9-2 Earlipe, Kandal Cavallet, 5-1 Fleked Cass, 9-1 Gitter lete, 7-1 Betty's Boy, 11-1 Callinos Bay, 12-1 Dots Samoural, 14-1 Stay Lacky 1998. Him Of Praise 8 10 10 J A McCarthy 3-1 fax (O Sherwood) M ron

FORM GUIDE Euclipe: In very good form, second to Teeton Mil in the Hennessy (3m3f) and fourth

to Kendal Cavoler in the Weish National (2m6t), both on soft ground Dom Samoure: Ran very well first two starts this term. Back to his old tricks, slowly away and taking no interest, when second toyounce in Welsh Nabonal Call It A Day: Promising return here, but pushed up in the Hennessy and well-beaten fourth to Tamanindo at Cheterinan Dropped Sto, chances it book to best Kandal Cavallier, Much improved to win Welsh National over the trip on soft ground. Kandril Coveller; Much improved to win Welsh National over the trip on soft ground. Eudipe 1815 lengths back in fourth. 2th higher here. Will win more staying races Callision Bayr. Good chance on last seasons winning form, but that were at at around growt. Untested over this trip and is not the most obvious stayor. Sittler bale: Tence good second over 3m11 last term, Probably back to that form when beating sole most Menesonic 19. length at Wincanton (3m1f) two whells ago. Beity's Bayr. Very lightly raced. First nut for 20 months when winning 9-numer race at Untowerer (2m7), soft) by 11; lengths. Sib higher here. Should stay the trip Flakked Oasts Won on soft all three completed starts in 1996/37. First nut price when need that it is extent in December. Increased when securities need them. Should so Should be supplied to the property of the property and the property and the security and the property and the property and the property of the property and good third at Earter in December Unseated when taxounts next time Stays very well good and in access in bodies or concerned in the finish if he gost round safety.

Stery Locky: 4b out of the handcap proper, Another who is very lightly raced, 1213. langths fifth at Uthwater Cim. heavy) when sumped durinsily througho VERDICT: Euclipe is 60 better off with KENDAL CAVALIER for his 181/2 longths been ing fraving been in close contention 2 out; in the Welsh National over the trait is cays ago; the sound-jumping winner looks surg to win more races off the higher mark, and the ground turned in his tayour yesterday. The latter comment also abolies to Wincomor segment of the late. Sany Lucky is still unexposed and Call It A Day is only 4th higher than when he won the Writteread over this course and distance in April.

3	.40	BILL REES NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE C4 (D) £5,000 added 2m 6f Penetry Value £3,794
1	436-34	KENTFORD TINA (8) (8F) (D) Bare) J Laure 8 11 10
2	3-324	UPHARE LORD (1) (The Bruchmakers) P Hobbs 6 ft 9
3	യട്ടം	BEEFY NOVA (25) (Nrs S Tainton) in Twiston-Davies 7 th 9
4		SOATER (2D) (Nrs C Loze) A T Murphy 5 ft 3
5		SLPMATIC (696) (Peer Smot Smot Earle 10 11 0
6	UPES	BOWLES PATROL (21) (Mr. Eva Sis.) J Upson 7 to 13
7	e e	EZANAK (21) (The West Lockings Partnership) Miss H Knight 6 (19
6	-50302	TELLAPORRY (21) (The Sun Punters Cate) R Simpson 10 103
9	3500	KCEIN BIO (38) (6 Sent) Mrs L Richards B (0 D Mrs clowers, value cap
10	/OP-00	I DO THE JOICES (14) (Cain France) J Gifford 9 10 0
11	56005	TACHOMETER (23) (Rehard General) H Hone 5 100
E	PF-650	PLYAN (47) (45; Sons Thomson Jones) Mrs D Hane 7 10 0
豆	49.350	ROYRACE (45) Undrew Exerts) W Brebourne 7 to 0

- 13 Geclared -

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Kentford Time: Conscient sort, though marken over hurdbe. Good second at Exeter on return before below form in very testing ground there 2 weeks later. Upham Land: Good second in Neomen Stator at Wincanton (2m61, good to soft). Looked very well but below form in better race on soft at Newbury last Saturday. Bearly Nova: Bester at 2m8/ than the shorter trips he has encountained last four starts. Three of his lost five appearances have nonetheless been disappointing. Beater: Steps up 4t in urp and far from centain to appreciate it. Also looks to have a staff task on what he has achieved in his light hurdling career so far. Stiponattic Very lightly roced. Placed twice over this sort of trip two years ago. Unraced sinos failer over (ences in February 1997 when trained by Andy Tumel. Bowlee Patrol: Wirner at Carliste (2m4f) and Plumpton (3m1f) this term, on soft surface. Shooting up the weights but han well again last time and should go close. Example: Off course 21 months before promising soft of 20 in good race at Warwick. (2m3f, soft). Progress needed on handicap debut but no problems with 2m6f. Tellaporthy: Thurd of 5 in the more 12 months ago off till higher trank making most. Tellaporky: That of 5 in the race 12 months ago off 11 b higher mark, making most Tellsporky: Thrut of 5 in the race 12 months ago off tilb higher mark, making most on soil ground. Well below form all 8 starts since, in 3 over lences the term Keen Bild: Stayer on the Fat and should stay this trip over hardles. Weakened 3 out when well beaten in 3m race at Plumpton lest month after long lay-off I Do The Jokes Has only harded at ability in four runs at around 2m, Bred to be much better suited by this sort of trip, so may well improve on hundicap debut Tachometer. Outsider all starts so fat, showing modest ability in bumpers. No solid form over hundles, 27/s lengths lifth of 7 finishers at Eveter (2mSt soft) in The Vars: Has not recaptured his bumper form in four runs over hundles and one over tences, none beyond 2m4t. Tired binkered latest outing Roynact. Form chance on his shird at Bengor and fifth at Towocstey, both at around 2m4t Fore on his hard at Bengor and fifth at Towocstey, both at around 2m4t Fore on his hard at lengor and fifth at Towocstey, both at around 2m4t Fore on his hard at one 3 m which \$10xtk! have suited

2m41 Poor run, however, at Amiree on latest over 3m which should have stated VERDICT: Plenty of these can be given a decent chance on the pick of their form, but only BOWLES PATROL tools sure to reproduce it. Chief among those who might be preferred on their best are Tellsporky and Royrece. Uphem Lord and Ezanek

Double bill for Loughborough

SPARE A thought for the stu-dents of Loughborough University this weekend. At the BY BILL COLWILL Cocks Moors Woods Centre in Birmingham today they will be playing in the National Club Indoor champiooship for a place at finals night at Crystal Palace next month for the first time, and tomorrow afternoon they travel to Bowdon in their postponed fourth-round EHA Cup tie, where they will be striving to reach the fifth round of the national competition for the first time.

The Students' manager, Bob McBiane, was unhappy with the demanding schedule. Whilst we have agreed to the double banking," he said, "we are not happy and feel we have been pushed into a corner and pressurised into honouring both commitments."

The indoor contest is a round-robin event, three games today and two tomorrow, with Reading will be missing their three to qualify from the six teams for the finals.

Loughhorough plan, after

HOCKEY

morning, against the defeoding champions, Reading, to coosider their prospects of qualifying for the indoor finals before deciding which of their squad will travel north for the Bowdon fixture and who will remain for their final game, against Norton. Norton were faced with an similar problem, having been

scheduled to visit Hounslow for their cup game that was called off before Christmas. Rejuctantly and unhappily they decided to pull out of the cup rather than travel with a depleted side. Southgate expect to include

their latest Australian acquisition, the international Max Diamond, in their squad which will be captained by the German international Eiko Rott. Eogland internationals, Jon Wyatt and Howard Hoskin, who will be replaced by the Todd their 10am game tomorrow hrothers, Andy and Rob.

Six new teams join the Conference

THE RUGBY LEAGUE Conference, one of the game's success stories in its first full season last year, has expanded by six oew based outside the code's tradijoining in. Two more, from

"It is a sign of the growing self-confidence that this wonderful sport is finally displaying," said the Conference's chairman, Liooel Hurst.

RUGBY LEAGUE

clubs for 1999. The competition, tional areas, will consist of 20 teams this year, with clubs in Crewe, Derby, Hemel Hempstead, Manchester, Nottingham and Wolverhampton Coventry and Newmarket, have been put on hold until next year.

The expansion means that the Conference will be played in four regional groups of five teams each this summer, culminating in a play-off series, like the inaugural one won by the Crawley Jets in 1998. They will start their campaign on 8 May. against Hemel Hempstead, whose inclusion in the compe-

By DAVE HADFIELD

triguing aspects of yesterday's announcement. Hemel, well established pioneers in their area, have been playing in the Rugby League Alliance and are earmarked to join the Rugby League itself in 2000.

Their season in the Conference is therefore seen primarily as a staging post, "We fully expect that they will be with us for only one season," said Hurst, who added that Hemel's playing strength would be controlled by qualification rules to prevent the possibility of them running away with the title.

Hull's Great Britain centre. Alan Hunte, is again being linked with a possible move to Warrington before the start of the Super League season. Hunte moved to Humberside from St Helens last year but has not settled and was previously tition is one of the most in- close to switching to union,

WARWICK

HYPERION 1.05 New Bird 1.35 Mister Blake 2.10 Cheerful Aspect (nb) 2.40 Moondigua 3.15 Luke Warm 3.50 Nessun Doro

GORNG: Soft (Heavy in places)

Eleft-hand course. Run-in of 240 yards

Course is W of city on 84095. Buses from rail stations at Warwick (tm) and Learnington Spa (2m). ADMISSION: Club £13;

lattersalls £9 (card-carrying students half-price, accompanied under 186 free); Course £5. CAR PARK: £5 in members; centre

of course free. FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 23-V3 (223%), O Micholson
23-06 (217-5), Mrs. J. Pibner 15-72 (205%), N TOWNES 11-81 (135%),
LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 22-56 (393%), R Johnson
8-76 (227%), N Williamson 9-81 (222%), A Meguire 14-62 (225%),
FAYOURITES: 153-403 (38%)
BUNKERED FIRST TIME: None

FASOWES HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000

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10	23436D	CRYSTAL CRAZE (8) P Bowen 10 7
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- 13 declared -BETTING: 8-11 New Bird, 8-1 Flush, 9-1 Fether Krismes, Mourseu Cheval, 12-1 I Wish You Love, 20-1 Classic Impact, My Lost Love, Tary Boy, 25-1

FORM VERDICT

Some interesting recruits off the Flat but they will have to be above average to best MEW BIRD, who impressed at Kempton and looks a smart youngster 1.35 WARWICKSHIRE AMATEURS H'CAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3m 2f

4(FP)P FULLSY TRUTH (29) (CD) M WESCH 10 2 0 ... Mr M Herts (7) 4547 PAMAE OF OUR RUTHER (29) (C) P Bosen 5 10 4... Miss P Jones (5) 2629 MISTER BLANCE (24) (D) (26) R Lee 8 10 9 ... Mr A Provincial ROMAN MOTABLE EXCEPTION (10) R Dickin 10 10 3 ... Mr J Switch (7) F8-25 HIGH MOOD (5) 1 George 8 10 0 ... Mr S Stroops (7) 1P32/5 GRIZZLY BEAR (11) (C) R Stroops (9 10 0 ... Mr S Stroops (7) - 6 declared -Minimum weight: 10st. True handcap weights: High Mood 9st 11b, Grazly

Back Br 50: BETTING: 11-8 Minter Blake, 2-1 Name Of Our Father, 8-1 Notable Ex-ception, 7-1 High Mood, 14-1 Grizzly Bee; 29-1 Filtrary Truth FORM VERDICT MISTER BLAKE is very much the one to best now that he reverts to 3m2l on soft ground, the conditions which saw him score or this style at Newton Abbot. Name Of Our Fether is not a certain stayer, but Filmay Truth and Grizzly Beer could be interesting at bigger adds.

2.10 BOSWORTH NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D)

1F/ THE HONEST POACHER (679) H Day 9 TI - ... R Farter - 5 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Cheerlal Aspect, Samuel Wilderspin, 100-30 Barhale Boy, 5-1 Christoburch, 7-1 Kentish Bard, 10-1 The Honest Poscher FORM VERDICT

Samuel Wilderspin was the best of these over hurdes but he made an insuspicious start to his chasing career here in November and is passed over in favour of chasing debutant CHEERFUL ASPECT. Henry Dailys gelding had some very useful form in soft ground over hundes and lives to front-run

2.40 WHITNASH HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds FIPH NOONDRULA (515) 33 Ppe 7 11 9 R Johnson 211-UZ NOOCK LEADER (21) (D) U Sherwood 7 11 2 J A McCarthy

Managan weight 10st lase hendisse weight Ains Sco 2 St 10th BETTINGS 3-1 Musical Sting, 7-2 Standams, 4-1 Knock Leeder, 9-1 Shapherde Real, 6-1 Moondigue, 3-1 Airel Son II, 14-1 Deymist FORM VERDICT

Some potentially well treated sorts here but MUSICAL SLING has made a good impression over hurded, desprie his teck of expenence, and is preferred to Shadlann, who might find his starring stretched over this slightly longer top in the

1 72-27 HERHORSE (10) (CD) Mas A H-Orappel 12 11 D _W Marston
2 1-P44 ANOTHER DEADLY (5) (D) T Casely 12 11 7 (Sex) T J Marphy
3 6P0-5 PUNTERS BAR (105) (D) P Boxen 12 11 5 _____ P Reven
4 15 (P2 LUKE WARM (505) D Gandalo 9 11 3 _____ G Bradley
5 45622 JASON'S BOY (5) (D) J M Gradley 9 10 11 ____ F Johnson
5 534-5 CAMP KEAD (46) S Stowcod 8 10 11 ____ D Gallagter
7 31 P15 MANAMOUR (25) R Lee 12 10 5 _____ S Durack

3.15 BEAR HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m 41 110yda

-7 declared -BETTING: 11-4 Jason's Boy, 3-1 Luke Warm, 7-2 Herborse, 13-2 Managous, 7-1 Another Deadly, 10-1 Porgers Bar, 12-1 Carep Head FORM VERDICT Another Deadly makes a quick reappearance after his suc-cess at Lingfield on Wednesday but he was not particularly fluent at his fernices that day and with need to jump better if he is to with the better race under his 6th penetry Jason's Boy is consistent but looks handscopped to his best and this is best left to top-weight HERHORSE, who goes well here and will like the ground

3.50 SHERBOURNE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m

FORM VERDICT
The Brownester and COULTHARD are the two emprovers, with profesence just for the latter, who has plenty more to come.

SADLE SELECTION

Triangular tournament: Australia and Sri Lanka promise stern examination of England's World Cup potential Peri

Limited relief for Wells and Alleyne

FORGET A SILLY little thing like the Ashes. The campaign leading towards the real contest that matters in cricket begins adjacent to a building site in Brisbane tomorrow. If that offends the purist supporters of a revered institution they should be reminded that the Gabba, once a ground bordering on the quaint, now seems to be in a state of permanent reconstruction aimed at taking it into the millennium.

No doubt they harbour similar feelings about the length of time a game of cricket should last, five days being good and anything below becoming progressively worse. Test cricket. of which the Ashes series remains the most treasured example, possesses more nuances and greater skills, while the one-day stuff is treated as mere froth, a necessary diversion. But this misses the point: that limited-overs cricket, while not always a thrill-a-minute (but, then, neither are Test matches), has developed its own singular skills, particularly in batting and fielding. If the bowling needs to be worked on, doubtless some

countries are already doing so. The Carlton & United Triangular Competition, in which England play their first match against Australia tomorrow, promises to be entertaining enough - not least because Sri Lanka are the other team involved - and it is also a key part of England's preparations for the World Cup, which begins at claim a place in the biggest bome in May. Let there he no mistake that if England somehow win the World Cup it will do more for the game than would regaining the Ashes. It will capture the imagination, it will throw up heroes and its blazing immediacy will he part of the reason. Never mind nu-

True, the sniffy brigade have been handed more ammunition by the allegations of betting. bribery, match-rigging and the in both Pakistan and Australia

Whatever the outcome of these Whatever the outcome of these there bas clearly been sharp practice and it would be as well if the International Cricket Council — who meet in Christchurch, New Zealand, next week — start to attend to the issue instead of ignoring it. The nefarious activities Alsocated of ignoring it. The nefarious activities Alsocated of ignoring it.

The nefarious activities AJ Stewart Surrey, capt. wkt

BY STEPHEN BRENKLEY in Brisbane

associated with the shorter international form of the game. however also serve to demonstrate its immense popularity. Not only does that apply in the sub-continent, where the bookmakers and bettors are in abundance, but in South Africa, where it has become beloved of a growing army of female spectators, and in Australia, where it was effectively invented.

England, being sniffler than most, have been wary of clasping it to their bosom. They talk of admiring innovation in others but have usually avoided the practice themselves. There are, it is said, far too many one-day internationals. Well, not where England are concerned. They managed 11 in all of last year while playing 16 Test matches. It was a touching gesture towards tradition but it was a schedule which might not have been designed to hone them for the World Cup.

The pitches they will encounter in Australia in the next six weeks and at least 10 matches (13 if they reach the final) will be somewhat different from those that will greet them in England in May, but the bearing on the World Cup squad is still overwhelming. New players like Vince Wells and Mark Alleyne, who have waited years for this sort of recognition, are now in the most favourable of positions to

tournament of all. David Gravency, England's chairman of selectors who is also their manager for this series, rejected suggestions that England are still no nearer to knowing their men for May, a suspicion founded on the evidence of the number of players more disparagingly as "bits

Australia v Sri Lanka (Sydney)
England v Australia (Melbourne)
England v Australia (Sydney)

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lately. "I would say maybe three quarters of the players in Australia will be there when we name our squad for the World said. "Other places may depend on conditions as well as form but, yes, players such as Vince Wells can get themselves into the World Cup in the next six

One of the places being frequently questioned is that of Ben Hollioake. Put simply, the achievement and the progress have failed to match the hype and expectation. He burst on to the scene two years ago with two marvellous innings at Lord's, a joyous 63 against Australia on his international debut followed by a wonderfully mature 98 for Surrey in the Benson and Hedges Cup final. Tve had a word with him and told him he can't continue to live on two innings," said Graveney. "They were a long time ago now." If the chairman of selectors is saying that you are in trouble but it is to be hoped Hollioake can emerge from his present slough of despondency, which is affecting all aspects of his game. Apart from anything else, he reduces the average age of the squad considerably.

According to Graveney, England's one-day strategy has been evolving since the famous victory in the Champions' Trophy in the autumn of 1997. In that competition they won all four matches which seemed to herald a fresh start. Unfortunately, they have lost eight of the 11 since. They have abandoned the idea of pinch-hitting for the sake of it and have begun to clarify their views on all-rounders, otherwise known

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who have worn their fetching and pieces" players. Either blue, almost turquoise, shirt they will use them or they

It is likely that the batting will be based largely on the platform of the breathtaking opening of Cup by the end of March," he Nick Knight and the enduring middle-order ability of Neil Fairbrother to accumulate rapid and, to the opposition, irritating singles and twos. If they pick three front-line seamers in Australia this month -Darren Gough, Dean Headley and Alan Mullally - they will surely pick them on greener

England can expect no respite with the Ashes series done. Australia's one-day squad is clearly settled. Their selectors have ignored the obvious claims of the likes of the ehullient Michael Slater and the wicket-taking leg-spinner Stuart MacGill and stuck with conclusions they had already reached. But the decision to appoint Shane Warne as captain while Steve Waugh recovers from a hamstring injury has not been greeted with universal

Mind you, the impression is that those commentators who object have done so not only because of the recent revelation that Warne was once foolish enough to accept a gift from an Indian bookmaker in return for information on pitches but because he bleaches his hair. Do not assume all the staid attitudes belong solely to and in England.

If Australia have a position in the batting over which to ponderit is at No 7 now that the veteran Tom Moody has finally been ejected, but they will make plenty of runs before then. Sri Lanka have arrived in dreadful form after losing badly they came to England after a poor run last year and won. Mischievously, they make much of the pressure of being world still to prosper in the bigger matches. However, their de Silva, forced to retire hurt in have brought the men in white a warm-up match against Australia yesterday, will concern

them. England will start the Carlton series as underdogs - a well-worn label they would do well to rise above.

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Vince Wells plays a reverse sweep during England's defeat of Queensland at the Gabba yesterday Ion Woldie

Knight's height of fashion

THEY ARE unfashionable play- BY STEPHEN BRENKLEY ers with counties to match. Four months ago the suggestion that Mark Alleyne and Vince Wells might appear in an England team - separately, let in Sharjah recently but then alone together - would have been greeted with amused tolerance, as indeed it had been by generations of selectors.

Any notion that they might champions but they manage not only play but make substantial and lively contributions measured precisely to strength in depth is suspect and the demands of the team and coats round for a visit. Thus reputations are developed and stick in the face of both the facts and worthy recommendations.

That is fashion. It was other men in white coats, of course, namely most of the first-class umpires, who had been banging on for years about the unheraided and overlooked virtues of the allrounders from Gloucestershire and Leicestershire. Since Wells is 33 years old and Gloucester stalwart Alleyne is 30 their time was less running out than up, but last September the present selection panel at last heeded the evidence and at the Gabba

England 324-6 Queensland 232 England win by 92 runs

picked them for the winter oneday matches.

With the remnants of the Test side yet to come back, it is still unsure what parts they will take when the serious stuff hegins in the internationals tomorrow, but yesterday here against Queensland Bulls England won by 92 runs in as sustained an exhibition of pleasing cricket as they can have mustered all tour. Wells, at the beginning of England's innings, and Alleyne, at its end, ensured a target which was attainable by the state side only in the

event of dreams, an inexcusable England bowling performance or an immense innings from the Australian side's captain. Essex's favourite overseas player Stuart Law (although, upon reflection, the last two in that list were not outside the bounds of possibility).

As the match was petering

boundary catch, another with have been considered meritorious enough for the man of the match award. Wells, who was not granted a bowl, edged him out in front of 17,000 spectators who delighted in the drama

unfolding before them. England won the toss, an occurrence as rare as handsome victories this winter, and Wells Knight. They put on 128 in 19 overs and the pace was quite as hlistering as it sounds. Knight has become supreme in this version of the game and his rapid, improvised half-century was anticipated. Wells matched him in the desire to Innovate shots and their fifties both came at more than a run a ball.

Alleyne (60 in 46 balls) and Neil Fairbrother (56 from 49) sustained the momentum at the end, careful not to lose wickets. judicious in scampering singles in the way Fairbrother has probably patented by now and later hitting freely. Queensland lost too many wickets early to out, Alleyne came on as the sev- have a realistic tilt at making

enth bowler, took a wicket with more than six an over for 50 his first ball, aided by a Wells overs. Law perished to an assured catch by Ashley Giles his second and finished with 4 at third man. England bowled for 6 from 14 balls. This might well enough, not least the tidy Robert Croft, and John Crawley was sufficiently assured behind the stumps, but the rest was practice.

ENGLAND Imine Total (For 6 wkts, 50 overs)324
Falt: 1-128 2-130 3-185 4-204 5-215
G-307.
Did Noe Bat: R 0 8 Croft, A F Gles, A
O Mulally.

Bowling: Kasprowicz 3-0-24-0; Miller 6-0-43-0; Bichel 10-0-57-3; Prestwidge 10-0-67-0; Creevey 10-0-55-2; Foley 4-0-24-0; Law 7-0-45-0.

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Fine tales of the riverbank

IT IS closed season for the salmon and trout, so over the past few months I have been enioving reading about fishing with a Monte Cristo or seven never far from my lips (sadly no real fire but a radiator, viewed through cigar haze and a half light, is an okay substitute).

To those that have never read any fishing books, they seem dreadfully dull. But some of these books are so fine and so soothing they should be prescribed by doctors for those with high blood pressure. One of my favourite books of the moment, and one that I read and re-read, is "Salmon & Women" by Wilma Paterson and Professor Peter Behan (Witherby). Although It examines the theory that women catch bigger salmon (because the bigger ones tend to be cock fish and attracted to the pheromones the female fisher passes down the line), it is the tales of long ago that enchant me so. Such as that of Georgina Ballantine's UK rod and line record (still held to this day) with her 64lb fish, caught in October 1922 on the Tay. And the fabulously named and stylish Miss Lettice Ward, who caught - among other fine fish - a 50lb salmon in 1928 on the Kinnaird beat of the Tay (where I am going next month so shall look her name up in the log book). This book is written in a lovely, lolloping style that is a delight to read, with some won-

Mother fishing in New Zealand m 1927.

derfully evocative photographs,

including one of the Queen

ANNALISA BARBIERI ON FISHING

book to avoid is "The Women's Guide to Angling" by Judith Milper (Thomas Harmsworth). Any woman who needs a gen-der-specific guide to fishing

should stay away from the river bank, or throw herself off it. The Flyfisher's Classic Library does some wonderful books, all beautifully leatherbound. "Salmon Fishing" by John James Hardy is gorgeous, with salmon fly recipes at the back and great illustrations that are clearly old but all the more charming for it. 'The Sea Trout' by fishing giant Hugh Falkus comes complete with a Medicine fly set in the inner cover: very special. Call the FCL (01354 653828) for its catalogue as the books are only available direct and discover some real gems.

Falkus is well worth reading. Sadly he died almost three years ago. His last book, co-authored hy Malcolm Greenhalgh, was "The Salmon & Sea Trout Fisher's Handbook" (Excellent Press). Falkus used to refer to it as the "Till Book", because he hoped it would be sold next to the till in every tackle shop. It should be.

Remember the "Teach Your-On the subject of women, a self Books"? Well there is a great one on fly fishing by Mau-

rice Wiggin that you can look out for in second hand shops. Out at the end of March is "The New Encyclopedia of Fly Fishing" by Conrad Voss Bark (former fishing correspondent of The Times) and Eric Restall (published by Robert Hale). It is a revised version of the 1986 edition and covers just about every aspect of fly fishing. Voss Bark has written a few books on fishing, including "A History of Flyfishing" (Merlin Unwin) which is definitely for the enthusiast; it taught me that the word angling comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "angul", meaning hook. Conrad's wife, Anne, is also the author of a fine tome: "West Country Fly Fishing" (Robert Hale), a compila-tion of some wonderful fishing tales by some fishing colossi such as Brian Clarke, Dermot Wilson and Ted Hughes. This is the book to read before bed for a blissful, peaceful slumber.

(And all royalties go to the Westcountry Rivers Trust.) Dorling Kindersley does some of my favourite books, with lovely shiny pages and loads of illustrations. They are expensive - all that gloss costs - but is a worthwhile investment. There

is "The Encyclopedia of Fishing" which takes you through tackle, bait, flies, species I use this book constantly to look up different sorts of fish), techniques, different sorts of water ... a must-have and especially good for beginners because it assumes no prior knowledge without being patronising. DK also publishes "The Complete Fly Fisher's Handbook" by Malcolm Greenhalgh and Denys Ovenden. However, despite the title it covers only trout, but how! It takes you through the trout's natural diet. in clear language with fine illustrations and then tells how to imitate the natural with lots of fly recipes. An entomological feast.

Other good, useful recipe books are "Trout & Salmon Flies of Scotland" and "Flies of Ireland" (both Merlin Unwin). Jeremy Paxman's anthology, "Fish, Fishing and the Meaning of Life" (Penguin), is a great book to dip in and out of and would be the perfect ac-

companiment on a fishing trip. Finally well worth buying for long car journeys is the delightful "Fly Fishing Tales" (John Howard Productions), calming, soothing tales told by David Profumo, Bernard Venables and others of memorable days' fishing. The tape box also contains real flies as used by the narrators. If everyone had one of these in their cassette decks there would be no more road rage, only glorious glimpses into the magical world of fishing. Just don't close your eyes

to try and picture it. a barbieri@independent.co.uk

TOP SEED Tim Henman had to pull out all the stops to topple the American Jeff Tarango in the quarter-finals of the Qatar Open in Doha. British No 1 Henman ought to have wrapped up a straight sets win but squandered three match points in the second set to let Tarango off the hook

Henman went on to beat Tarango in the third set and secure a semi-final spot with a 6-4. 6-7. 6-4 victory that took two hours and 34 minutes.

However, Henman, the world No7. knows he cannot afford to repeat the lack of concentration which enabled Tarango to take the second set tie-break if he is to go on and win the tournament.

"Jeff put up a strong resistance," admitted Henman, who fired 21 aces during the match. Despite his defeat Tarango. ranked 74th in the world, still managed a smile. He said: "I did everything that I could. I think my form bas really come

After an assured start by Henman in the first set, a real doglight ensued in the next, with a furious exchange before Tarango squared the match in the marathon tie-break.

But Henman was not to be denied and, falling back on preligent and elegant play, he asserted himself in the third to earn a semi-final meeting with the winner of the match between Hicham Arazi and Karim Alami.

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Henman responded well to the loss of the second set, breaking Tarango in the opening game of the third and opening a 3-0 lead. Tarango clawed his way back to 4-3 down but

Henman beld his nerve to kill off the American's comeback. Henman was flying the flag

bacher in the opening round. Henman had no trouble in disposing of the Dutchman Sjeng Schalken in his firstround match.

Thowever, the erratic form in

BY DERRICK WHYTE in Doha

evidence against Tarango had surfaced in his second round victory over Morocco's Younes El Anaoui, where he struggled early on and lost the opening set before getting bis act together

Henman has set his heart on winning the title, making up for last year's quarter-final exit against Petr Korda.

Meanwhile, Sweden were set to play Australia in today's Hopman Cup final after Jonas Bjorkman and Asa Carisson came from behind to defeat Switzerland's Ivo Heuberger and Martina Hingis 2-1.

Hingis won the opening singles tie 6-2,6-2, before Bjorkman drubbed her partner Heuberger 6-2, 6-0 to level the tie. The Swedes claimed the mixed doubles 2-6,6-3, 6-4.

The relief was evident on the face of Bjorkman, who has been required to win all of his singles games during the mixed teams championship because Carlsson has lost all three of bers.

The final will pit the Swedes against the big-serving Mark Philippoussis, last year's losing US Open finalist, and the 15year-old prodigy Jelena Dokic.

Bjorkman was delighted at needing less than an bour to dispose of Heuberger, who made an unacceptable 34

unforced errors. "I never let him into the match, but Ivo didn't have one of his best matches," Bjorkman said. "I'm very happy and pleased that I've wnn all three singles matches."

The seven-time Wimbledon for Britain following the sur- champion Steffi Graf overprise exit of second seed Greg powered the American teenag-Rusedski, who crashed out er Serena Williams 6-2, 7-6 to against Germany's Bernd Kar- reach the final of the Super-

Kong. Graf faces Williams' sister Venus, who beat Anna Kournikova of Russia 6-4, 6-3 in



Jan-Michael Gambill plays a backhand against Karol Kucera in the Hopman Cup yesterday

Rafter short on motivation

THE REIGNING US Open champion, Pat Rafter, lost to the lowly-ranked Slava Dosedel in an early-season tour event yesterday and confessed that be was struggling to get motivat-

ed for the year ahead. The Australian, ranked No 4 in the world, was swept out of the Adelaide men's hardcourt Power Challenge Cup in Hong tournament in the second round, beaten 7-5, 6-4 by the 64th-ranked Czech. "The last two years have

the other semi-final.

work again," Rafter said after his hopes boosted by the with- tough to handle nevertheless. tournament back from a twomonth lay-off with a knee injury.

Rafter said be had tried to maintain his training during the break hut had been losing focus under the weight of his playing back US Open wins and rise up commitments and recent fame. "It was really hard to him plastered as a sex symbol push," be said. "I've got to find on magazine covers worldwide that motivation over the next week leading up to the fans.
[Australian] Open." Ra

Sheffield have twice beaten

the Leopards in the League

this season by more than 25

points, hut Finch warned:

They have no pressure on

them, and if they win it makes

■ The National Basketball As-

sociation has wasted no time in

trying to put the lockout behind

it by pledging to lure back fans

with cheaper seats and prepar-

ing for a shortened season.

The league hopes to start the

season on 5 February and play

been very difficult, so it has been hard to get motivated and do the top ranking this year, and had pay for his success, but was

being hundled out of his first drawal from the Melbourne grand slam event of current No 1, Pete Sampras.

However, the 26-year-old admitted to feeling the pressure of public lite after his back-tothe rankings. Success has seen and be is continually mobbed by

Rafter said the constant Rafter has his sights on the attention was a small price to

"I'm confined to the hotel a lot because I just don't want to deal with people all the time. People are being nice but at the same time it's hard for me to be nice all the time." be said.

Rafter was sluggish on court against Dosedel yesterday, being frequently passed at the net by the Czech right-hander. The defending champion, Australian Lleyton Hewitt,

advanced to the quarter-finals,

over another Czech, Jiri Novak,

he club.

Phillips fit to return for Sunderland

SUNDERLAND'S Premiership promotion campaign should be given a timely boost when their exciting striker Kevin Phillips returns after a long absence through injury to face Queen's Park Rangers.

Phillips, who has been out since September with a toe injury, is under consideration for the trip to Loftus Road, where Sunderland will be seeking only their second victory ever without the services of an array of attackers.

Their manager, Peter Reid. will select his team without being able to call on Daniele Dichio, who is suspended, and the injured Michael Gray, Allan Johnston and Nicky Sum-

Although Sunderland are eight points clear at the top of the First Division, they cannot afford to ease up with Ipswich and Birmingham chasing them hard for the automatic promotion places. Second-placed lpswich will unveil their new wing-back Fabian Wilnis at the while Birmingham are at home to struggling Port Vale. The First Division's manager of the Bradford side to Stockport.

Watford's assistant manag-

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL

By MARK PIERSON

against the Hornets when Portsmouth, giantkillers in the third round but struggling in the League, visit Vicarage

Oxford United's manager, Malcolm Shotton, is aiming to get his side's feet back on the ground after the thrill of being paired with Chelsea in the FA Cup fourth round for the relegation six-pointer against Bristol City at the Manor Ground.

Norwich City have put their FA Cup defeat by Sheffield Wednesday behind them and their manager, Bruce Rioch, is confident bis side can bounce back at the bottom club, Crewe.

Again, West Brom's inconsistency frustrated their fans when they fell 1-0 at Bournemouth in the FA Cup. leaving their manager, Denis Smith, wondering if his side can maintain form to challenge for bome game with Grimsby, a play-off place, Smith wants his side to get back on track when Barnsley visit The Hawthorns.

Sheffield United's playermonth, Paul Jewell, takes his manager, Steve Bruce, has received a boost to his side's Watford's assistant manag-er, Kenny Jackett, is wary that of David Holdsworth to face last week's 5-2 FA Cup defeat Swindon after four months out at Tottenham could work with knee ligament damage.

Brannan steps down from Rangers post

firmed he was stepping down as ate to make my intentions Rangers' chief executive and said he did not want to pursue a career in football. Brannan revealed be came to a decision about a mooth ago that it was time to explore other avenues.

The announcement came ust four days before Rangers set off for Florida to set up a winter raining camp.

after just six months having previously been the manager at a whisky company, gave his reasons in a statement released by

"I have today resigned my position as director and chief executive of Rangers," he said. "I took the decision more than a month ago that I did not want to follow a long-term career in for day to day operations at the football. In recent weeks I have completing a 7-6, 2-6, 6-4 win | been pursuing other career op-

BOB BRANNAN yesterday con- portunities and felt it appropriknown to David Murray [the Rangers chairmanl given the high-profile nature of my posi-

"I would like to thank David for the opportunity he has given me to work in football and regret the timing of my decision. I wish the club every success for this season and beyond. This con-Brannan, who leaves Ibrox dudes my statement and I have no intention of commenting further either now or in the future."

Murray will now take charge of day-to-day operations at the Scottish Premier League lead ers. "I am disappointed for both parties that it didn't work out. I personally wish Bob well in his future career." Murray said. "I will assume responsibility

club. There will be no further statement on this issue."

Simons sinks teeth in Sharks Jones' birthday bash

RASHOD JOHNSON makes his debut for Greater London Leopards in the National Cup Final tomorrow, the unwitting centrepiece of a controversy that has spiced up preparations for an apparently one-sided contest in which the Sharks are overwhelming favourites for victory on their own court at single-handed. Sbeffield Arena.

Leopards' owner, Ed Simons, ridiculed claims by the Sharks coach, Chris Finch, that Johnson should not have been allowed to register for the final. "Last season Sheffield made

exactly the same move when t by brought in John Amaechi

BIATHLON

BILATHLON

WORLD CUP (Oberhol, Ger) Ment's

10km sprine: 1 V Drachev [Rus] 27min

A4,6sec (two penalty laps); 2 O E Bjoemdalen (Nor) 27:A82 (2): 3 R Gross (Ger)

28:00.6 (1): 4 P ROSCOVERY (Rus) 28:08.3

(0): 5 V Sashurin (Bela) 28:35.8 (1), 6 J
M Chabloo (Swir) 28:36.9 (0): 7 F Luck

(Ger) 28:47.0 (1): 6 W Rottmann (Auc)

28:58.7 (0): 9 V Hietalahti (Fin) 29:01.8

(0): 10 J Ozbolt (Sloven) 29:02.2 (0): 11

A Aidaro (Bela) 29:05.7 (2): 12 T

Globocnik (Sloven) 29:09.8 (1): 13 H

Hanevold (Nor) 29:09.9 (2): 14 W Pern
er (Auc) 29:28.6 (1): 15 Y Mochizuki

(Japan) 29:30.4 (1): World Cop stand
lags (after seven evensy): 1 P Ros
tovtsev (Rus) 143pts; 2 5 Fascher (Ger)

142: 3 O-E Bjoerndalen (Nor) 136: 4 F

Luck (Ger) 135: 5 R Polive (Fr) 125: 6 V

Hietalahti (Fin) 105: 7 O Ryzhenkov

(Beta) 101: 6 V Sashurin (Bela) 88: 9 R

Cattarinussi (tj. 84; 10 R Gross (Ger) 75.

Womeen's 7.5km sprint: 1 L 6 Skjebreid

(Nor) 24:23.8 (2): 2 O Zubrilova (Un)

24.40.5 (0): 5 N Talanova (Rus) 24:58.0

(1): 4 U Disi (Ger) 24:59.0 (3): 5

Darosska (Bul) 25:24.1 (1): 6 N Santer

(id) 25:34.4 (2): 7 A Menkei (Ger) 25:39.7

(1): 8 M Gwizdon (Pol) 25:41.0 (1): 9 P

Wagenführ (Ger) 25:45.3 (1): 10 T Tana
Isa Japan) 25:47.3 (0): 11 G M Andressen

(Nor) 24:48.4 (0): 12 A Briend (Fr) 25:53.5

(1): 15 M Forsberg (Swe) 25:57.3 (4): 14

N Lemesh (Ukr) 25:59.4 (1): 15 A Akhma
toua (Rus) 26:02.9 (2): World Cap

standings (after seven sennis): 1 U Disi

(Ger) 176bts: 2 M Forsberg (Swe) 167:

3 S Greiner-Petter-Memmi (Ger) 149: 4 L

tous (Rtis) 25:02.9 (2), seoria Cap standings (after seven events): 1 U Dis (Ger) 176pts: 2 M Forsberg (Swe) 167: 2 S Greiner-Petter-Mernin (Ger) 149: 4 L 6 Skielbreid (Nor) 119: 5 C Niogret (Fr) 105: 6 K Apel (Ger) 100: 7 A Henkel (Ger) 100; 8 A Akhatova (Rus) 97: 9 M Zellner (Ger 27: 19 G M Andreassen (Nor) 94.

THELD SHIPLD (Phrst day of Adelaide: South Australia 284 for (B A Johnson 122); Western Aus-27 for 8

FOOTBALL

Fifa, the world govening body, yes-terday lifted its suspension of the Cameroon national federation.

BASKETBALL

BY RICHARD TAYLOR

the League Trophy virtually

to Sheffield.

from America," Simons said. "Their sole aim was for Amaechi to win them a title and that's what he did by winning

"At the time Yuri Matischen

(Sheffield's general manager) rang me and asked for the Leopards' support. I told him that the League needed players of Amaechi's quality, and good luck to them if he chose to go

allowing the country's national team and clubs back into international competition. Fifa said the west African country's government had now accepted a plan of action pre-

viously agreed by the world gov-erning body and the African football

eming body and the Arrican rootual federation. Cameroon was suspended Monday after after its sports ministry sent a fax to Fifa last week containing reservations about the plans for the national federation. Fifa dissolved the federation in November because of a series of financial problems, and appointed an intermeneutive to run the organisation for nine months.

GOLF

GOLF

MERCEDES CHAMPIONSHIP (Kapalua, Manaral) Leading first-round scores (US miless stated): 66 S Pate. Funk, J Durant, 2 Mayfair, 67 B Andrade, O Duval, 68 J Furyk, J Cook, J Leonard, 69 C Perry, L Janzen, T Woods, O Love, J Parnevik (Swe), F Coupies, 70 B Chamblee, V Singh (Fiji), 5 Appleby (Aus), J P Hayes, M O'Meara, M Calcavecchia, 71 M Bradley, J Hyston, 75 Simpson, 72 T Dodds, P Mickelson, 73 J Sigman, 74 S Elkington (Aus), T Watson, 75 S Jones.

ICE HOCKEY

from their coach. He should had to concentrate on Birmingham until 24 hours before concentrate his aggression for the final. That will help us." the basketball court."

Finch is also angry that his own Peter Scantelbury is cuptied and that the Leopards were allowed to postpone tonight's scheduled Trophy game with London Towers, giving them a clear week to prepare for the final.

Sheffield had to play Birmingham Bullets in a televised Budweiser League game last night, and Leopards' coach. Billy Mims, admitted he is grateful for the extra time. "We've had all week to prepare," he said, "but Sheffield

"Now we get this nonsense

ROY JONES JUNIOR will stage a boxing birthday celebration in his home town of Pensacola tonight - even though it comes a week earty.

The man who bolds the World Boxing Association and World Boxing Council light heavyweight titles will not be 30 until 16 January and wanted to stage his mandatory defence against Rick Frazier, a 39-yearold New York City police officer, on that date. However, be was blocked from doing it by Mike Tyson's comeback fight against Francois Botha on the same day at Las Vegas.

The left-handed Frazier, a

BOXING BY WYN GRIFFTTHS

expect to ruin Jones' birthday celebration. He has fought only 22 times in a professional career that began in 1992 and there has been criticism of his

No 1 ranking. Jones, who often fought in Pensacola early in a career that began in 1989, will be appearing in bis third championship bout in his hometown. In 1995, he defended the International Boxing Federation super-middleweight title the first round and Tony Thorton in the third.

Birmingham's Anthony policeman for 17 years, does not Maynard has been forced to withdraw from his all-British European lightweight title fight with Billy Schwer in London on 16 January. The 26-year-old Maynard, the

> Midlands Area champion, was due to meet defending champion Schwer at the York Hall Bethnal Green, but he has dislocated his shoulder in training. Maynard's trainer. Pat

Cowdell, said: "There is no way he can fight until the problem is sorted out."

TODAY'S NUMBER

The arrests so far in a basketball conspiracy and briberv scandal in Arizona. The latest man charged is Vincent Basso, the son of a Chicago mob associate.

SPORTING DIGEST

their season."

OLYMPIC GAMES

Frank Jokilk, president of the Salt Lake City Organising Committee, and Dave Johnson, the vice-president, are expected to step aside, either permanently or temporarily, in the wake of a bribery scandal. Both officials were involved in Salt Lake's successful bid to host the 2002 Win-ter Olympics. That effort has become the target of four investigations of hundreds of thousands of dollars that went to scholarships and gifts for international Olympic Commit-tee members and their relatives.

RUGBY LEAGUE Wigan have appointed Dennis McHugh as their new youth manager, McHugh, who has coached England Under-16s, is a former Widnes Academy coach and was assistant to Phil Larder at Kelghley.

SALLING LASER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Mel-bourne) Second day: 1 = 8 Airsile (GB). M Blackburn (Aus), R Scheidt (Bra) 13pts;

4 K Suneson (Swe) 17: S= F Westman (Fin), R Suomalainen (Fin) 22. SKUNG

Benjamin Raich was sutprisingly composed yesterday a day after stunning the siding world with a record-breaking first World Cup win in Thursday's night slalom in Schladming, Austria. After finishing 23rd on the first leg, the 20-year-old Austrian improved by 3.84se to win the second, almost half a secwin the second, almost half a second ahead of the field. In the process. He bettered a 24-year-old record set by the Swede Ingernar

SNOOKER

Mike Hallett's miserable season continued yesterday when he was knocked out of the British Open at the Norbreck Castle Hotel in Blackne Nordreck Castle Hotel in Black-pool. The struggling former world No 4, who currently stands 150th on the provisional ranking list, was beaten 5-0 by the Scot Chris Shade in only 68 minutes. Shade had breaks of 90, 64 and 47 before sealing his place in the third qualifying round with a blue-to-black clearance in the fifth frame. Stuart Bingham, the 1996 world amateur cha from Basildon, put himself in line for the £1.100 highest pre-television break bonus with a 136 total clearance during his 5-2 victory over Micky Roughan.

TENNIS

TENNIS
HOPMAN CUP (Parch, Aus): Sweden
by Switzerland 2-1 (Swe names first):
A Carlsson lost to M Hingis 2-6 2-6; J Bjorkmon by Heuberger 6-2 6-0; Bjorkman and
Carlsson to Heuberger and Hingis 2-6 6-3
6-4. United States by Slowakia 3-0 (US
names first): L Davenporr by K Habsudoto 6-4 6-2; J-M Gambill by K Kucera 5-7
7-6 6-4; Gambill and Davenport by Kucera
and Habsudova 7-5 6-3.

QUATAR ATP TOUR (Doha) Singles, quarter-flash: T Herman (GB) bx J Tarango (US) 6-4 6-7 6-4.

(US) 6-4 6-7 6-4.
AUSTRALIAN MEN'S HARDCOURT CHAMPIONISMP (Adelaide) Singles, second round: 5 Dosede | Cz Rep) by P Ratter (Aus) 7-5 6-4; 1. Hewitt (Aus) bt J Novak (Cz Rep) 7-6 2-6 6-4. Quarter-thasis: 1 Stottenberg (Aus) bt B Black (Zim) 6-3 6-2; Hewift bt Dosede 4-6 6-4 6-2; S Draper (Aus) bt M Tebbutt (Aus) 6-7 6-4 7-6; T Enquist (Swe) bt O Hrbaty (Slovak) 6-2 6-4.

SUPER-POWER CHALLENGE CUP (Hong Kong) Singles, sami-fisals: S Graf (Ger) bt S Williams (US) 6-2 7-6; V Williams (US) bt A Kournikova (Rus) 6-4 ASB BANK WOMEN'S CLASSIC (Audiland, NZ) Singles, semi-finals: 0 van Roost (Bei) bt B Schett (Aut) 3-6 6-1 6-0; J Halard-Decugis (Fr) bt 5 Farina (It) 7-6

6-1.
GIROBANIK TOUR (Telford) Men's singles, quarter-finals: C Wilamson (Hamps) bt J Layne (Carnbs) 6-4 6-2; C Bennert (Hereford and Worcs) bt A Wharf (Gloucs) 6-4 6-3; O Sapsford (Surrey) bt T Spirks (Nortolk) 6-4 6-7 6-3; N Gould (Avon) bt 8 Haran (Hancs) 2-6 6-3 6-0. Seasi-final: Wildinson bt Bennert 6-4 7-6 Wildinson bt Bennert 6-4 7-6 Hugner's singles, quarter-finals: M Mirrins (Rus) bt L Woodroffe (Surrey) 6-3 0-6 6-2; C Coombs (Kent) bt C Stringer (Oxon) 7-6 1-6 7-5; 5 Greeg (Yorks) bt J White (Dorset) 6-3 6-2; K Warne-Holland (Dorset) bt L Nagusthand (Esses) 6-3 6-1

WEIGHTLIFTING

Johnny Nguyen, the Australian Olympic Games weightlifter, has re-ceived a two-year ban for testing positive to the steroid stanozolol. The ban, backdated to 2 September 1998, was imposed automatically by the Australian Weightlifting Feder-ation and the Australian Olympic Committee after Nguyen chose not to request a hearing at the Court of Arbitration for Sport, Nguyen, 23, competed at the Atlanta Olympics and was fourth in the 56kg class at last year's Commonwealth Games.

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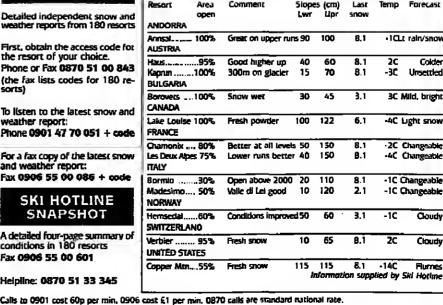
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THE SWEEPER

BY CLIVE WHITE AND NICK HARRIS



Keegan back on Tyne for big night

Keegan will keep his promise made shortly after his resignation from Newcastle United two years ago that he would only ever return to St James' Park for Peter Beardsley's testimonial when be turns out for his former team-mate's big night against Celtic on 27 January. So, too. interestingly, will Keegan's successors on Tyneside, Kenny Dalglish (similarly disenchanted with the club) and possibly Ruud Gullit.

Included in a truly star-studded Newcastle XI will be former favourites Paul Gascoigne, Chris Waddle and Andy Cole, who was the first to accept the offer to play from Beardley's testimonial committee. They will be joined by Geordies Steve Bruce and Steve Stone, who will fulfil life-long ambitions when they pull on the black and white stripes, while Lee Clark has been given permission to appear 24 hours after Sunderland's Worthington Cup semi-final first leg against Leicester.

Beardsley, who scored on his debut for Hartlepool last week, is guaranteed a 36,000 sell-out. Tickets go on sale next week.

UHLSPORT, THE German sportswear company, would appear to be working hand in glove with the Indian restaurant in Stockport which gives Carlo Nash a free curry every time he keeps a clean sheet. The former Crystal Palace goalkeeper has been signed up to promote the company's gloves which are called - would you rest of Europe spends the festive pehelieve it - Uhlsport Windbreaker. A former part-time model, the Clitheroe kid, all 6ft 5in and 14st of him, naturally needs a hit of space to relax and unwind after games on the Belgian season takes its winter the team bus home, but with four consecutive clean sheets - not to mention four free curries - behind him his size may not be the only

director wanted to reenact the Irish legend's six-goal haul for Manchester Unitin 1970 simply because the County incredulously: "They played on Sat-Ground no longer exists. The Cob- urday and they play again on hlers left their old stadium to move Monday!"

RECENT neck opera- to their present home, at Sixfields tion permitting, Kevin Stadium, six years ago. So instead the producers have asked Warrington Town, of the North Western Trains League, if they can use their Cantilever Park stadium for the scene since it hears a striking resemblance to the County Ground. "We were delighted to help out," said spokesman Colin Serient. "It is a proud boast that Cantilever Park will be used for a film about George Best, and ironic given that our ground was not considered good enough for the North Western Trains League First Division last season."

> SONG SHEET Touching White Hart Lane tribute to an ex-Spurs hero 66 Whoa Teddy, Teddy. Teddy, Teddy, Teddy, Teddy, She-ring-ham. to Man Utd

WHILE THE English and Scottish were running their socks off as usual over Christmas and the New Year, three young Manchester United exports had their first taste of how much of the riod, that is, with its feet up. Danny Higginbotham, Ronnie Wallwork and Jamie Wood are back in Manchester enjoying a month's rest as break, enabling players to rest and recuperate, even undergo minor surgery. All three play for United's new nursery club, Royal Antwerp, whose 18-man squad includes players from 13 countries. Antwerp are A FILM to be made about fifth in the league, which reopens the life of George Best today week, five points behind leadpoints from 24. If nothing else, British clubs' activity has given the Belgian press something to report. ed in an FA Cup tie at Northampton One headline over Christmas read

WELL, THEY had to dry up some time. It is now exactly a year since Ian Rush, one of the most prolific goalscorers of the modern game and now playercoach of Wrexham, last scored a goal of any description and two years since he last scored a League goal. Rush, 37, has not scored since he bundled home the winner for Newcastle United at Everton in last season's FA Cup third round his 43rd goal in the competition, a post-war record. And his last League goal was for Leeds United two years ago on Monday when he scored twice in a 3-1 win against Leicester. So if he should score in a Wrexham win at Reading today, I suppose the Second Division club could claim mover to have lost a game in which Rush has scored.

LIKE HIS Liverpool "twin" John Aldridge, Rush doubtless knows a goalscorer when be sees one. Feeling rightly chuffed on Boxing Day after his third victory over Sunderland since turning to management at Tranmere, Aldo was somewhat irked to hear Gary Megson, of First Division rivals Stockport, bemoaning his lot after spending £900,000 this season on one player, Ian Moore, "That's the sort of luxury I simply can't afford: I'd be looking to bring in perhaps three players for that kind of money," said the Irishman, whose financial constraints at Prenton Park are well known, adding: "And I wouldn't term Ian Moore a prolific goalscorer."

QUITE A few clubs would do well to follow the lead of Billy Davies, the Motherwell manager, who has introduced a novel idea of fining players who give banal quotes to newspapers. It all goes into a kitty and once a month the entire squad get taken out for a Chinese meal. After his depressing time at Goodison Park, it has certainly cheered up Davies' on-loan hoping for a permanent move soon. Players who get sent off also have to stump up money. "It costs about £300 or £400," said Spencer, "and I'd like to say that I'm really looking forward to eating big Shaun Teale's wages in a couple of weeks' time."

AS YOU WERE











early '80s (top row, left to right, Phil Neal, Phil

Thompson, Graham Souness and Terry Mc-

Dermott). Not for them the Spice Boy antics

that current Reds allegedly get themselves

involved in. Not for them to perform marvels







Not for them to think they deserve £110,000 or happy. And who can say that it did them any harm? As the current pictures show, the Old tracts, as Steve McManaman and Robbie Boys these days (bottom row) look as happy and healthy as ever, and have all achieved huge Fowler have recently reported to have done. success (well... a kind of success) in manage-ment or coaching positions at Manchester City, Oh no. The boys from the glory years wanted nothing more than to pull on the Liverpool shirt and play for their club. Bonuses meant nothin the England camp, in Portugal, at Newcastle, among other places - and possibly at the baring more than a bottle of hair conditioner to one day and play like a bunch of losers the next. keep the perm in shape and everyone was ber shop, too.

THE PRICE IS RIGHT

exactly runneth over last week, but Man-

chester United duly dispatched Middlesbrough and all five of our FA Cup hunt, so we are still on our way to tingham Forest, perennial draw Premiership portfolio.

OUR FACUP did not merchants Everton to be held by Leicester, and Middlesbrough to draw with Aston Villa makes an UBERO WAGERS attractive Saturday treble while Manchester United, who returned to form against Boro last ton to draw with Lekester (11-5); Tottenham, West Ham, Leicester at Old Trafford tomorrow. Bologna and Southamoton-are still in the can hold Sampdoria to a draw in Genoa, while Aston Villa, at 7-1, Wembley and the pay window. look a must addition to Arsenal (£3 Coventry to beat hapless Not- at 5-1 - now 4-1 recently) in our

THE SWEEPER'S STOMPING CERTAINTIES

(£2 treble with Stanley): Coventry to beat Nottingham Forest (8-11); Ever-

SUNDAY SKY MATCH Manchester United v West Ham Manchester United (£3.50 to win, 4-7.

E SUNDAY C4 ITALIAN JOB Sampdoria v Bologna Draw (£2.50, 2-1, Coral & Tote). PREMIERSHIP PORTFOLIO a (£2 to win, 7-1. Coral & Tote)

************* **CURRENT KITTY: £115.02!**

ORIGINAL BANK: £100.

TODAY'S BETS: £10.90 (including £0.90 tax paid on).

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

ENGLISH CLUBS are certainly leading the way in Europe, hut only Chelsea are doing so for positive reasons. Signor Vialli's team's run of 19 unbeaten League games is up there with the best on the Continent, hut for Charlton - challenging Doxa Katokopia of Cyprus for the title of most successive defeats - and Nottingham Forest deading the "since last win" table), the situation looks somewhat gloomier.

UNBEATEN RUNS

3 Oblik Belgrade (Yugoslavia) 5 Sparta Prague (Czech Republic).

SUCCESSIVE DEFEATS

tokopia (Cyprus)

3 Universitatea Civi (Romania)

nillakos Pirgos (Greece) ...

tham Forest (England)

SINCE LAST WIN

MYTEAM



ED STEWART **EVERTON**

DJ on Radio 2 "Tve been an Everton supporter for 50 years and it's funny how defeats stick in the mind. My first match was Everton's 6-0 defeat at Chelsea. Then there was the 10-4 defeat at Spurs. By far the most important game ever was last season's final match against Coventry when we just avoided relegation. I've met some of the old greats like Brian Labone and the manager Harry Catterick. In the early days of Radio 1 we had a keep-fit competition and I was weighed in the Goodison dressing-room. I remember knocking myself out on the pirate ship Radio London when Everton scored the winner in the 1966 FA Cup final."

IN T'NET

Found on the Web: "Footie fun" products. ANDREW ENDLAR, the man behind this site, was a chemical manufacturer by trade when asked to develop a device for maintaining the freshness of hikers' boots. Through some bizarre logic, this invention led to designing a range of branded goods, mostly confectionery, for football clubs to sell. The site gives details of the alliterative products on offer. "The Scottish clubs in particular are going crazy for it," said Mr Endlar of his main chocolate line, Footie Footballs. "What we want for future products is to keep the alliteration going," he added. Footie Frogs (chocolate bars in the shape of frogs, wrapped in club colours) and Footie Frisbees are the next innovations to be developed. http://freespace.virgin.net/andrew.endlar/cur-

SEEN BUT NOT BOUGHT

DO OLDHAM players have especially stinky fuet? Why else would they be the first club to have their own branded Footie Fresh? "A very small, pumpaction air-freshener for football boots," is how the makers (see above) describe these must-have items. At £1.99, who could turn their noses up?

THEY'RE NOT ALL DENNIS BERGKAMP

Unsung foreign legionnaires No 21 DIRK LEHMANN: The 27-year-old German was a centre-back when he played in his home country for Energie Cottbus but can now be found filling the role of striker for Fulham after moving last summer for £30,000. Lehmann started his career with Alemannia Aachen, moved on to FC Cologne, and played for Belgian sides Lierse SK and RWD Molenbeek before the grand step up to Mr Al Fayed's Cottagers. Known affectionately as "porn star" due to his pencil moustache and stylishly-coiffured blond hair, Dirk has scored five times in some 20 games so far

since his move.



1.0.4

Hale and Pace fall at the first but finish in front

HALE AND PACE come pretty low down the comedy food chain, swilling about in the primeval pool with the single-celled organisms, the Starrs, Davidsons and Barrymores. Still, you have to admire their raw, naked courage in setting themselves up as racing commentators in Jobs for the Boys (BBC1, Wednesday).

Martin Hopkins, a Grandstand producer, wants them to have no illusions. "Absolute horror," he says, when they ask him his reaction to the idea. "You're going to have to prove you can get away with it before we'd let you anywhere near a live race. All I can Ho is now luck - but

you haven't a prayer." After some not-terribly-helpful advice from Peter Alliss, they meet Ian Bartlett, the SIS commentator, who gives them each a six-furlong race to call. John McCririck. who is going to assess them, is as optimistic as Hopkins. "They have absolutely no chance at all," he says. "If they can call



the winner, it's their fortune. I'm hoping for a hlanket finish."

It is a chastening experience for them both, though Hale (the one with the facial hair, by the way) is particularly bad. adrift on a sea of embarrassing silences. Worse, they have to suffer a dressing down from McCririck. "It was embarrassingly inept!" he roars. "I was cringing listening to it! A blind baboon could have done bet-

ter than that!" In search of more advice, they visit pay their next six months' mortgage with sionals," Dave Gordon, Grandstand's

Thruxton to see Murray Walker, who their winnings - so if you make a cock-up, recalls the BBC experience in which they you'd better start running." had commentators swap jobs. He was perfectly suited to horse racing, but given the choice, he says, he would have done the snooker, and he gives Hale and Pace a sample: "And Davis has drawn the cue back - and HE'S SLAMMED THE BALL INTO THE FAR CORNER!"

Over in France at the World Cup, John Motson has some sound advice. "You've got to leave yourself room to go one octave higher," he tells them. You have to give the right amount of information, but be aware of the whollor - you've got

to caption the picture." Their first public test is at the dogs, where racing commentators are often blooded. They are at Wimbledon, where EastEnders' Wendy Richards marks their

"There are people up there looking to

They take a race each, and under the easier conditions - the dogs are numbered one to six, with the same colour every time for each lane – they pass muster. Hale doing especially well to conquer his pre-race terrors. "I feel like pulling out my tongue and ironing it, it's so knotted," he says beforehand, while afterwards, he is relieved to note; there are "no lynchings".

After a trip to Wimbledon for the tennis, where a dry run under the gaze of Sue Barker and Pat Cash is encouraging, they stand audition. Their lack of racing knowledge is letting them down, Bartlett tells them, but it is not just that. Hale is worried, and rightly so, because he just has not got it - that sense of assurance, of being in control, of being both oracle and fan.

"We don't employ second-rate profes-

executive editor, warned them on audition day at Newbury (I wonder if the entire team had been asked to play hardball, because they are deeply sniffy about the whole venture).

Hale is feeble, while Pace is not a great deal better - "We could feel the ship sinking under us" - though he wins the producer's round with a rousing finish.

Three months later, at Aintree, they get their chance. Pace gets the main gig, with Hale in the paddock. "Tense? Am I tense? No. It's much worse than that," says Hale, so Pace must be truly terrified. before sun-up on the morning of their very public execution.

In fact it all falls wonderfully into place. Hale has done his homework on the horses, and he is relaxed and fluid, recounting a nice anecdote about one of the runners, who travels with a pony to calm it down. "He's telling a story - that's just

what he should be doing " says Clare Balding as she watches up at Ascot with Peter O'Sullevan. Pace starts slowly, a little solemn, but confident, building it up nicely, spotting a couple of fallers, and call-ing the end of the race perfectly. "Very impressed," says Dave Gordon. "I drove away from Newbury thinking they'd never.

ever do it. But they've surprised me." As Hale hands over to Steve Rider -That's the first professional hand-over for about three years," Rider says - there is general amazement and jubilation in the Grandstand control room, while Pace is post-traumatic stress syndrome. Trut

never doing that again," says Hale.
The final frame is left to Pace, looking like Munch's "Scream" when Bartlett tells him he can do the next race as well. They have got away with it. Now why don't they do us all a favour and switch jobs altogether?

E INDEPENDENT

Law changes and action replays have proved effective in stimulating more imaginative and attacking play

No holding back regenerated game



RICHARD WILLIAMS

ON THE surface, or not very far below it, this whole business about shirts and elbows is to do with Arsene Wenger's boys getting their comeuppance. The Frenchman may have improved the dietary habits, training routines and general intellectual tone of a traditional English football club en route to the Double, but his Arsenal players are still the aggressive. rancorous mob that they were under George Graham, Or so the argument goes. A bit further behind the headlines, however, lies a much more interesting

When Patrick Vieira throws his arm back at the harrying Neil Redfearn of Chariton, or Ryan Kidd of Preston goes down in a heap in the penalty area after an exchange with Fabian Caballero, we are seeing something that may be not so much to do with individuals following a team's code of be-

In the old days, a defender would hack down a forward and leave him lying there, in no position to react

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Raviour, or with foreign players importing alien habits, as with an involuntary response to the tactical evolution of the worldwide game. Think about it. The tackle

from behind has been outlawed. Tackling from the side, by a defender manoeuvring himself abreast of a forward, is rendered vastly more hazardous by the likelihood that referees, observing Fifa's instruction to punish the slightest hint of illegitimate physical contact, will reward a mis- in no position to react with timed effort with a yellow card anything other than a shout of place on the last line of defence, an expulsion. And the speed of applied to the upper body rethe modern forward compounds the defender's problem. response. And since the for-

with answers. And one solution, not feel constrained to remain in a close-quarter contest, is a tug of the shirt, or an arm across the chest. Spectators you," Howard Wilkinson, the hate it, perhaps because it Football Association's technical looks like something any of us even of the Norman Hunter your arms and elbows. You've variety it has nothing to do with only got to watch a boxer in a themselves into the right skill. Forward and midfield clinch to see that. What can be artists hate it even more. a movement to hreak away can



The art of shirt-pulling, demonstrated here by Blackburn's Stephane Henchoz and Danny Cadamarteri of Everton, is not simply a modern phenomenon

are in a position to do something about it.

In the old days, a defender would hack down a forward and leave him lying on the ground. or even, if the offence takes rage or pain. But a forward impeded by a hand or an arm tains the capacity for physical But defenders are there to ward is reacting instinctively to fend. They have to come up a perceived injustice, he may

within the rules himself. "If someone gets hold of director, said this week. "the could do. Unlike a harsh tackle, only way to get free is to use

Unfortunately for them, they look like striking out." He matter so much. If we couldn't paused, then added: "And those predisposed to striking out will see it as a bit of an excuse."

Not everyone sees it as an urgent new problem. "It was We got away with murder." always there." Roy McFarland. the distinguished former England centre-back, told me, "But now thanks to television, you see things you didn't see before. The technology has improved the spectators' position, if you

But McFarland, now managing Cambridge United. agreed that the defender's job has become much more demanding. "They have to be 100 per cent right when they're trying to make a tackle, rather than just 60 or 70 per cent right. So maybe they're trying to get position, and tugging or pulling to get there. In my day it didn't lighted anyway."

King's Lynn v Bath: Merthyr v Salisbury; Tarmworth v Cambridge City, Mildland Dhelslon: Bedworth v Racing Marwick; Blorwich v Redditch; Cinderford v Bliston: Cevedon v Sotton Coldheld: Mindley Utal v Scalinati, Newport (Gwent) v Stepshed Dynamo; Pager Rangers v Misbach; Solihull Borough v Stourbridge; Stamford v Blakenali; VS Rugby v Moor Green; Weston-super-Mare v Evesham Utd. Southern Bhelslon: Baldock v Newport (IoW); Chelmstord v Bashley; Corby v Erith & Behedere; Fleet v Grencester; Folkestone Inveta v Witney; Hawant & Waterlooville v Brackley; Margata v Timbridge; Raunds v Ashlotti; Sittingbourne v Fisher. St Leonards v Andover; Fate v Darrford.
WINDSTONLEAD ICENT LEAGUE Precider Division: Chacham v Sheppey; Erith v Beckenham; Faversham v Sheppey; Erith v Beckenham; Faversham v Sheppey; Erith v Beckenham; Faversham v Canterbury; Hythe v Thamsmead; VCD Ahledt v Croy; Whitstable v Tunbridge Wells, UHLSPORT UNITIED COUNTIES Longe Premier Division: Boston v Bestorough; Ford Sports v Cogenhoe; Holbeach v Storiold; Long Buckby v Eynesbury; Potton v Rempston; St Neots v Wellingboron v Blackstone; St Neots v Wellingboron v Blackstone; Suder v Holisham; Burgess Hill v Ringmer; Eastbourne Town v Litcheampton, Horsham VMCA v Selsey; Pogham v Hassocks; Salidean v Langney Sports; Shoreham v Crichester; Whitehawk v East Preston.
SCREWIFIX DIRECT (LARGUE Premier Division; Backwell v Bridgore; Ramsta-

SCREWFOX DIRECT LEAGUE Pros

SCREWFUX DURECT LEAGUE Premier Divisions Backwell v Bridport; Barnstaple v Odd Down; Bristol Manor Farm v Bridgwater. Caine v Keynsham; Elmore v Chippenham; Mangotsfield v Paulton; Melisham v Bideford; Westbury v Brisington; Yeovil TR v Bishop Sutton. MORTH WESTERN TRAINES LEAGUE First Division; Atherton Collieries v Bootle; Leek CSOB v Atherton LR; Nantwich v Rossendale; Newcastle Town v Holker Old Boys; Ramsbottom v Prescot Cables;

v Rossendale; Newcastle Town v Holker Old Boys: Ramsbottom v Prescot Cables:

ord v Glossop North End; Sk

manage to intercept the ball, we could still go in from behind and kick the forward. Oh yes, make no mistake about that.

The suggestion that shirts were always tugged finds a supporter in Ray Wilkins. "You just see it more clearly now." the former England midfielder said. "especially in the Premier League, where TV examines every incident from so many different angles. Most of the time you'll find that both parties are doing the tugging or shoving." Yet today's defenders, he continued, are "petrified to hit anybody from the side or from the back - the good thing is that they're now staying on their feet and not going to the

ground, which is an aspect of

WEEKEND'S FIXTURE GUIDE AND POOLS CHECK

their craft that should be high-

change in the laws is forcing defenders to learn to apply greater skill and judgement. "I think we're moving into a period where people are becoming

very aware of that," he said. "What the new rule on tackling did was cause defenders to defend very deep rather than push up and get close to their opponents. The analysis of the last World Cup supports that view. Instead of only having to make a decision about whether to get in front of the forward and pinch the ball or stay on their feet and tackle him, they've chosen to drop off and defend the 18-yard line."

The effect of this, he pointed out, is to reverse the trend of the 1970s and '80s, when the game became artificially compressed in midfield. 'The game has got very stretched again,"

For Howard Wilkinson, the he said. "It's become much more difficult for coaches to compress the game."

It is also more demanding on the players. "You can't go out with just a general pressing game. You have decide, are we I was lucky enough to play going to press early? If we aren't, when are we going to press? So the responsibility has gone much more back to the players. Defenders have to be more able to make decisions. and their choices have to be much more educated. It's the whole business of when to tackle and where. 'Can I get alongside, can I get in front, can I get my foot across?' Individual defending is something people are going to be paying attention to, as much as to individual

Roy McFariand took up a point made recently by Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon man-

WITLSH NATIONAL LEAGUE First Divi-sion (2.30): Abertilery v Tondu: Blackwood v Rumner, Dumant v Bonymaen: Lixndoveru v South Wates Police, Maesteg v Nevbridge; Pontypool v Liwit; Tredegai v Cross Keys; Teactin v Merchur

Treorchy v Merthyr.
ANGLO-MELSH PRIENDLY

McFarland said. "There's pace throughout every team. That means the game has opened out, it's more end to end. I've got three very quick forwards here at Cambridge, and I tell them that if they've got half a yard on a defender, to keep

"Look at the pitches," Ray Wilkins remarked. "They're howling greens. There's no mud. Five or 10 years ago, half the pitches would have been mud patches at this time of year. And that's conducive to pace."

These changes, and others, have put unprecedented demands on the ability of defenders to concentrate throughout a match, "You can't knock the ball back to the goalkeeper and take a hreather any more," McFarland pointed out. "When you do pass hack, you have to be looking for a return pass from the goalkeeper if he's under pressure. The ball's in play the whole time. And allowing players to come back from offside positions, that's made a hig change, because you can't push up and catch forwards offside so easily:

And to those who value the game's creative arts, the changes have brought a further bonus. "You see a lot more freedom and space in the middle of the park," Howard Wilkinson pointed out, "and the

'Individual defending is something people are going to pay as much attention to as individual attacking

players who've come into their own are people like Bergkamp and Zola and Zidane, wbo've exploited that space - people who can not only pass the ball but run with it as well. The perception of the midfield general has changed. You used to need someone who could put his foot on the ball and calm the game down, but now he's not so much of a sitter and a sprayer. He's playing further up the field. Looking at players from the past who would have benefited, you might think of with Dave Mackay, Bobby Michel Platini. And you have to wonder how good Kenny Dalglish would have been in this environment." It is, as Wilkinson observed.

hard to find a genuinely sterile game these days. "It's making the game more imaginative," Ray Wilkins agreed. McFarland was simibetter today, because defenders larly optimistic. "Think of the way Wimbledon used to squeeze teams," he said. "It was boring, negative and hard speedster, an Overmars or an to play against. And those days have gone." Seen in that light, squabbles over who elbowed whom may be no more than a

TODAY

FOOTBALL . 3.0 unless stated PA CARLING PRE Arsenal v Liver pool (all ticker)

uthampton v Charlton

PiSouthampton v Charlton

Pimbledon v Derby

PIREST DAVISION

10 Birmingharn v Port Vale

11 Crewe v Norwich (all tacket)

12 Huddersfield v Bury

13 Ipswich v Grimsby

14 Oxford Utd v Bristol City

15 OPR v Sunderland

17 Swindon v Sheffield Utd

18 Watford v Portsmouth

19 West Bronwich v Barnsley

19 West Bronwich v Barnsley SECOND DIVISION 20 Blackpool v Manchester City (12.0)

24 Lincoln City v Bournemouth

31 York V Preston
THIRD DIVISION
32 Barnet v Darlington
33 Brighton v Carlisle
34 Cambridge Und v Torquay
35 Cardiff v Hardepool
36 Exeter v Swansea
37 Hallizav V Peerborough
38 Hallizav V Peerborough Southend v Scarborough

POOTBALL CONFERENCE Barrow v Rushden & Diamonds oarrow v kushden & Diami Doncaster v Cheltenham... Famborough v Stevenage ... Hareford v Hednesford.... Katering v Morecambe Katering v Morecambe Katering v Morecambe E 2 Stonlan v Hayes TERMENTS SCOTTISH CUP SECOND ROUND Oueen of the South v Ross County...... Oueen's Park v Cachnacuddin

SECOND-ROUND REPLAYS Erechin v Keith
East Pife v Fortar (1.15)
Stenhousemuir v Whitehill

40 Airdine v Greenock Morton

40 Airdine v Greenock Morton
41 Chydebank v Ayr
42 Raidt v Falkirk
43 St Mirren v Hibernan
44 Strannaer v Hamilton
SECOND DIVISION
45 Forfal v Clyde
47 Livingston v East Fife ... Postponed
48 Parpetk v Alka THIRD DIVISION

Montrose v Albion PRIENDLY MATCH: Berwick v Hearts XI

PALLSBERG VASE Fourth rounds
Ash v Therton: Bedford Town v Wrocham;
Bedlington Terriers v Banstead [1.0]:
Bowers United v Woodbridge; Camberley
Town v Tooting & Mitcham; Clitherne v St.
Helens; Ford Ucd v Kidsgrove; Goole v
Bernerton Heath: Harlow v Taunton;
Lymington & New Milton v Mossley; Oldbury v Workington; St. Blazey v Dunston
FB; Sudbury Town v Northwood; Sudbury
Wanderers v Gai forth; Warrington v
Thame. Postponed: Wick v Vauchall GM.
KYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division; FB: Sudbury Tomm v Northwood; Sudbury Wanderers v Gai rorth: Warrington v Thanne. Postponed: Wick v Vaudhalf GM. RYMAN LEAGUE Premater Division: Aglesbury v Enfield: Bacingstoke v Heybridge: Bishop's Stoctford v Harrow Borough: Bromley v Carshalton; Chesham v Slough: Dagennam & Redbridge v Dulwich: Gravesend v Aldershor: Hampton v St. Albans: Purfleet Hendon: Sutton Utd v Biflericoy; Walton & Hersham v Boreham Wood. First Division: Barton Rovers v Braintree; Berithamsted v Staines; Canwey Island v Grays; Croydon v Oxford City. Hitchin v Wernbley; Leatherhead v Molesey, Leyton Pennam v Romlard; Usbridge v Maldenhead Utd; Wealdstone v Bognor Regs; Whyteleafe v Worthing; Yeading v Chertsey, Second Division: Challont Steller v Hertford; Hungerford v Wokingham; Leighton v Hemel Hempstead; Wilnabor & Eton v Grackneli; Witham v Horstam; Wivenhoe v Barking, Takrd Division: Alekey v Lopton: Croydon Athletis v Flackwell Heath; Dorking v Cheshunt; Egham Town v Contriblan-Casuals; Epsom & Ewell v Lewes; Tilbury v Ware; Fing v East Thurnock; Wingstow & Finchley v Kingsbury. UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Polysion: Samber Bridge v Bishop Auckland; Blyth Spartams v Colwyn Bay; Chorley v Emley; Frickley v Lengh RM; Gateshead v Lancaster; Guiseley v Acrington Stanley; Hyde Utd v Altrmcham; Marine v Etalyoridge; Rustender: Congleton v Alfreton; Eastwood Town v Netton; Lincoln Utd v Farsley; Stocksbridge PS v Nuclenal; Trafford v Bradford Ps; Whitley Bay v Raddille Borough.

Gaic v Marke road.

MORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE

Premier Division: Ecclestell v Armthorpe

Welfare; Glasshoughten Welfare v Brigg;

Hallam v Sheffield; Liversedge v Ossett

Albion: Maitby MW v Sefby; North Ferriby

v Pontefract Cols; Ossett Town v Thack
tops: Children v Sheder Strands ABW v Des DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Divi-

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Barwell v Knypersley Vkco-ila; Boldmere St Michaels v Wednesfield; Kings Norton v Chasetown; Oldbury v Bridgmorth: Pelsail Villa v West Miclands
Police: Rocester v Sandwell Borough: Shinal v Halesowen Harriers: Stourport
Swifts v Stapenhill: Stratford v Rushall
Olympic; Willenhall v Pershore.
##MSON WESSEX LEAGUE First
Divisions: Totton v Christchauch; Bournemouth v Cowes Sports: Brockethurst v
Thatcham: Downton v Money Fields;
Gosport Borough v Eastdight: Hamble ASSC
v East Cowes Vics; Portsmouth RN V BAT.
##MSON BASTERN LEAGUE Premier DR MANKTEND LEASURE PTENSE TOMP-stos: Acherstone v Gloudester: Burton Abbon v Weymouth, Crawley v Halesowen; Dorchester v Rothwell: Grancham v Worcester: Greeley v Bromsgrove; Hast-ings v Boston Urd: Ilkeston v Nuneaton; JENSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Dhislant Bury Town v Watton; Diss v Soham; Ely v Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth v Newmarker; Halstead v Febrstowe Port

6 Town: Histon v Fakenham: Stowmarket v Maldon: Warboys v Gorleston. ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Billingham Synthonia v Penritir; Chester-le-Street v Seaham Red Star; Easington v Marske; Gusborough v Billingham Town, Jarrow Roofing v Shildon: Morpeth v Consert: Newcastle Blue Star v Stockton: Tow Law v South Shields; West Auckland v Crook. THE TIMES FR YOUTH CUP Third round: Sunderland v Bristol City. PRESS & JOUENAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Buckle Thistle v Hundy, Elgin City v Peterhead: Fort William v Fraserburgt; Losslemouth v Brora Rangers. Nam County v Deveronale; Rothes v Forres Mechanic; Wick Academy v Cow Rangers. SMIRNOFF HRISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Ballymena v Portadown: Ciltonnille v Glentoran: Coleraine v Lineid; Crusaders v Newry, Glenavon v Omagh Rown, First Divisione; Ards v Balyclare: Carrick v Bangor; Dungannon v Lime: Limavady v Distillery. LEAGUE OF WALES (2.30): Caersws v LEAGUE OF WALES (2.30): Caersws v Holywell: Carmarthen Town v Cwmbran;

noryweir, Carmarthen Town v Cwmbran; Comwy Barry Town; Hawrfordwess v Afan Lido; Rhayader Town v Bangor City; TNS Llansantifraid v Newtown.

RUGBY UNION 3.0 unless stated
EUROPERS OF SERVITARIALS
Colomiers v Perpignan (1.45)
Ulster v State Français (1.0)
TETLEY'S BITTER CUP
FOURTH ROUND Nottingham v Eveter
Rotherham v Leeds [2.15]...
Sale v Northampton ...
Sedgley Park v Wasps (2.30)...
Waterloo v Orrell (1.45)...
JESUSSON NATIONAL LEAGUE Two North (2.30). Nhichurch, Nuneaton v New Brighton; Stourbridge v Presion Grasshoppers; Walsall v Hickley, Winnington Park v Lichleid, Two South Cheltenham v Norwich (2.30), North Walsham v Metropolitan Police (2.15), Plymouth v Tabard (2.30). Wiston-super-Mare v Hawart WELSH CHALLENGE TROPHY POOL A
Aberavon v Georgis (2.30)...
POOL A
Lianell v Blue Bulls (5.30)... Nottlingham v Beeter Rotherham v Leeds [2:15].....

Lianelli v Blue Bulls (5.30)

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-	Cheisea	20	37	+14	6	4	0	15	5	3	6	1	16	12	DDWWD	Thirthy Membastic (At 16 Jun Coventy Of, 57 Jun Arsend (A), 73 Pain Brackers (F)
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_	Tottenham	20	27	-2	5	3	2	19	16	1	3	5	9	14	WDLDW	Thickay Shelf West (As IN Jun West east) (AS, B Rule Coverage No. 13 Pale Southwest on (A).
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	Blackburn	20	18	-8	4	2	4	12	11	0	4	6	8	17	WDDWD	Today Leens (4), 16 Jan Derpe (A), 30 Jan. Texteriors (4), 6 Pale Assay V.Ls (A)
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	Charlton	20	16	-8	2	3	4	13	10	1	4	6	21	19	шп	Thing Scotterquien (A), 17 Jun tenezatie (A), Status Man Clas (A), 6 Feb Scotterquen (A);
-	Soutisaniated	20	14	-22	2	2	6	12	20	Ŧ	.3	6	4	18	מושנון	Technic Control Rt. 163 m (merces) At 30 Jan Lends PK, 4 Feb Chebra (A)
1	Notine Forest	20	13	-18	1	6	3	9	12	1	1	8	9	24	மம	Today Coverny IAL 16 Jan Arena IN. 30 Jan Everton IAL 5 Feb Mars USS (FIL.

AIB LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION
Blackrock College v Clontart (2 30)
Buccaneers v St Mary's (2 30)
Buccaneers v St Mary's (2 30)
Carryowen v Cork Consillation (2 30)
Lansdowne v Gaharegians (2.30)
SECOND DIVISION (2.30): Bective
Rangers V Old Crescent: Dolphan v Manderets,
Old Betwedere v DLSP: Skerries v Portadown.

ager, that coaches have to teach

defenders to intercept passes

rather that make challenges.

"That's dead right. In my day

the better player would always

be looking to intercept the ball.

Moore and Colin Todd, who

were all exceptional readers of

the game. What is the forward

going to do with the ball? If you

can read that accurately, you

can get in position to oinch the

ball without having to make a

tackle. That was the skill. And

that side of it has to be so much

are worried about chasing for-

When the opponent is a real

Owen, the problem is even

more acute. "And in the Pre-

mier League it isn't just

isolated players with pace,"

HOCKEY HOCKEY

HOCKEY

HAROGATE (12.30).

SOUTH Premier: City of Portsmouth v Old Whitelfitars; High Wycombe v Old Cranleignars; Purley Walcountars v Richmond.

DTZ BillonAND Premier: Edgaston v North Stafford, Hampton-In-Artien v Strewsbury, Khalta v Harborne; Northampton Sants v Leek. Nottingham v North Notts; Oiton & West Warwick v Coventry & North Warwick

Chion & West Warwick v Coventry & North Warwick
PREMIER HOLIDAYS EAST Premier:
Catchester v Bedterd Town: Crosty v Bishop's Stortford; Ipswich v Blueharts; Peter-borough Town v Cambridge City,
EHA INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONESHIP
Prefilminary remads 112.20-5 0] (or Forest Glodes LC, Kidderminster) Bartord Tigers, St. Albans, East Grinstead, Yeoni & Sherborne, Hull. 111.30-7.0.] Ind Cocks Micro Woods, Birminghom), Loughborough Sturlents, Emithands, Southeate, Reading.

BASKETBALL BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leicester Raders v Worthing Bears 17.301. UNA-BALL TROPHY Group A: Derby Storm v Thames Valley Tigers (7.30); Man-chester Glants v Chester Jets (7.0).

ICE HOCKEY

OTHER SPORTS DARTS: Embassy World Championship |Lakeside Country Club, Frimley Green]. SNOOKER: Qualifying for Regal Scotosh British Open, World Championship (Northed Castle, Blackpool)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL FA CARLING PREMIERS Manchester Utd v West Ham (4.0) . NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Bolton v Crystal Palace (1.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Richmond v Newbury...... West Haitlepool v Bracknell (2 30)......

Pontypridd v Edinburgh Reivers [2,30] ... Ebbw Vale v Glasgow Caledonians (2.30) Newport v Goueng Fakons (2.30)........ AIB LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION Young Mintster v Shannon (2,30) SECOND DIVISION (2,30); Old Wesley v Greystones: UCC v Sunday's Well.

HOCKEY EHA CUP Fourth round: Bowdon v Lough-borough Students | 1 0| EHA BIDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP Preliminary rounds: 10-3 0 (of Forest Glades IC, Niddeminister): 10 0 - 5.01 (or COLS Moor Woods, Burningham). WORDEN'S EHA CUP Fourth rounds Blackburn Northern & Sturch I? 01 (at Wit-

BASKETBALL BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester Jets v Leicester Riders [5 30]: Edinburgh Rocks v Manchester Guants (5.0). SAINSBURN'S CLASSIC COLA MATION-AL CUP Flaat: Greater London Leopards v

ICE HOCKEY SEKONDA SUPPERLEAGUE: Ayr Scottlsh Eagles v Cardiff Devils (6.30); Bracknell Bess v Normgnam Panthers (6.0); Manchester Storm v Sheffield Steelers (6.0); Newcas-

OTHER SPORTS DARTS: Embassy World Championshi |Lakeside Country Club. Frimley Green|. SNOOKER: Qualifying for Regal Scottish. British Open, World Championship Northreck Castle, Blackpool).

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

FULL TRANSFERS Free transfer or undisclosed fees unless stated

Jermaine Pennant (Iornard) Notes County to Arsend (2m); Frade Rippe (defender) Ullestom (10m); Frade Rippe (defender) Ullestom (Nort to Liverpool (2709.000 m; fra to Ezm); Fablan Wilnin (defender) De Grafischup (Nech) to Ipanich (1200.000); Paul Wanderes (E800.000); Seven Tamend (defender) Stoke City to Dunder; Leigh Junionann (Iorward) Wigan Athletic to Heart of Midlothian, Mark Watsson (defender) Osters (Swe) to Oxford United

Willem Kerstan (Iorward) Vitesse Amhem (Neth) to Leeds Urd; Martin Pringle (forward) Benfica (Por) to Charton Advictic Louis Saha (Iorward) Paris St-Germain (Fr) to New-

TRIALS

Pride is at stake for the Newcastle manager as former protege brings title-chasing Chelsea to St James' Park

Past about to catch up with Gullit

BY GLENN MOORE

IN KEVIN KEEGAN'S heyday as the manager of Newcastle United the players trained in front of adoring crowds so large that a mobile hot-dog van was in daily and profitable attendance. Yesterday, as Ruud Gullit put the current squad through their paces, there were just 18 supporters in attendance

As a snapshot of the club's decline it was an eloquent picture but also a false one. Given that United have won two of their last 11 League games, and that it was pouring with rain on Tyneside yesterday, it was amazing that anyone came to watch at all. That one lad did so wearing little but a white shirt and black trousers beggared belief. But then, as with so much to do with the putupon Magpies these days, not everything in black-and-white makes sense.

The chaos in the boardroom is well documented. Already this season they have sacked Kenny Dalglish two games into a £15m investment, then invited back Freddie Shepberd and Douglas Hall, the shamed directors, provoking the angry resignation of Denis Cassidy, the club chairman.

In the dressing-room there is uncertainty. To the players, according to Warren Barton. "The first thing Rund told us was there was nothing wrong

'I put Chelsea's team together. It is my vision, my ideas they are still practising. I am proud of that'

with the team. What was missing was confidence." To the press he said: "I have inherited a relegation team."

Yesterday he continued his "mission" to change that, introducing his third new signing to training, Louis Saha, on loan from the French side Metz. Gullit, who took over at the end of August, also admitted an take "a year" to get the team he wants. Five players have left and several more will follow, with the disaffected Alessandro Pistone and Dietmar Hamann likely to lead the exodus.

In the stands there is similar confusion. A crowd which has become, at times, tetchy and mutinous, reacted to last week's early deficit in the FA Cup tie with Crystal Palace by roaring the team to victory. And on the horizon is the potential takeover of the club by NTL, a Hampshire-based media company involved in cable television.

Today, Gullit's new team face his old one, Chelsea, at St James' Park. Chelsea, who sacked Gullit in acrimonious circumstances in February, are second in the Premiership, Newcastle are 13th. Though



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Vialli's. It had been "easy" for his successor, he said, as "my" players, tactics and rotation system were all in place.

"He has done exactly what I was trying to do, he tried to play 4-3-3 and lost all his games and went back to my system," Gullit added. "I also see he said rotation was a good idea. It is my vision, my ideas, they are still practising them. I put [Chelsea's] team together, I am proud of that and the success they've had. Now they have to go for the title, that was my goal, anything else would be

Gullit's words are unlikely to soothe the atmosphere in the boardroom and dug-outs today but they do highlight the core difficulty in assessing the two compliment to Gullit's team-

Gullit spoke carefully of looking building or due to Vialli's own from the Dalglish reign that spending 250m, blew the title in down to Dalglish or Gullit-who inherited a squad containing 16 internationals?

At Chelsea, Vialli, crucially, has introduced Marcel Desailly and Albert Ferrer. He has also kept a largely settled defence. The team has subsequently become much harder to beat. Would this have happened under Gullit? At Newcastle the jury is still out on the Dutchman but there is an undercurrent of

Mark Jensen, editor of The Mag, a long-established club fanzine, believes the club is proessing. "I feel bringing Gullit in was a buge step forward," be said. "The players he brought in at Chelsea are the framework of their current team and I feel be'll do the clubs. Is Chelsea's success a same bere; the board appears to bave learned the lesson

interest in Crystal Palace's forward not back, be made it tactical nous and man- you have to buy quality. I hope clear he felt it was his team management skills? Similarly, once the takeover is sorted through, things will improve. It takes time - people have got to

At times like this it is worth

reflecting on how far the club has come. Without a championship since 1927, or a trophy since 1969, they were floundering in the old Second Division when Sir John Hall and his son, Douglas, persuaded Keegan to come back in early 1992. Had Newcastle not won their last two matches that season they would have been relegated instead of Plymouth Argyle. They were promoted to the Premiership the following season and, in the five years since, have finished third, sixth, second, second and 13th, the latter being combined with a first FA Cup final appearance since 1974.

That is the rosy view. The

1995-96 while last year's League performances were dull and

Even so, to take the decision to sack Dalglish so soon after giving him £15m to spend was rank mis-management and his replacement by Gullit has yet to be justified. Gullit's blg advantage, he freely admitted yesterday, is in the transfer market. "Players want to play for me because of the success I have had," be said, "So far everyone I have approached wants to play for me.

But signing personality managers, then giving them carte blanche in the transfer market. is an expensive way to run a club and Newcastle desperately need him to be successful. With Middlesbrough and Sunderland booming they are in danger of becoming the region's third club.

Plans are underway to avoid other notes that Keegan, after this dreaded prospect. Though

implications for the game in sters should be able to move in general - as with Manchester to an injection of cash for Gullit. This will ease the short-term burden created by the club's bold response to the block on building a new stadium on Town Moor - they have embarked on re-building St James'

Park to lift capacity to 51,000. However, Sir John Hall's original concept of a Newcastle Sporting Club representing "the Geordie nation" on the lines of Barcelona and Catalonia, has effectively been abandoned. The Newcastle Falcons rugby union club. Eagles baskethall club, and Riverkings ice hockey club continue but are increasingly divorced from the

football organisation. Other expansion plans have also had mixed success, with both the academy for young players and the state-of-the-art

the takeover has worrying ning permission. The youngsoon but the first team's new architect's drawing board. Meanwhile, they use borrowed facilities adjacent to Durham County Cricket Club's impressive Chester-le-Street headquarters.

> As a consequence, Gullit's press conference - which yesterday attracted four television crews and various radio and written media - is held in the foyer of the local council's leisure complex, which shares the site. Thus, while Louis van Gaal holds court at the Nou Camp under photographs of great Barcelona triumphs, and a picture gallery featuring every one of the club's many Spanish internationals, Gullit faces the media under signs directing visitors to the kitchen

and the public toilets. None of this belps. When training complex awaiting plan- teams are struggling these are

fans are quicker to object to the

team are losing. "Everything relates to what happens on the pitch," added Mark Jensen. "At Manchester United the off-field developments like the takeover are just a diversion because the team are still in the Champions' League. People respond to success.

How far away is this fell Newcastle? Gullit, preparing the public for the worst, said yesterday: "I hope, in a year, this will be my team. I have just begun here, it is a big job. Chelsea are much further advanced than we are. They have been a long time together and have had success aiready. I do not have to prove anything in this match."

All the same, both he and Vialli would very much like to win it, and not just for the sake

Fowler's Highbury stadium tour Wenger unimpressed

YOU CAN say what you like BY GUY HODGSON about the fixture computer, there is clearly a chip in there marked "mischievous sense of burnour". Most weeks it throws up at least one game with undertones but today it has surpassed itself. The bytes are grinning like a toothpaste advertisement.

Just a normal day? Think again. Robbie Fowler going to Arsenal is enough to keep one's wry muscles in focus but in addition Martin O'Neill is going to a club he turned down. David Pleat revisits Hillsborough and Ron Atkinson's past and possible future will meet at Highfield Road. Oh, and there is the matter of Ruud Gullit playing host

That is enough coincidences to make a detective novel totally implausible, but anything that can accommodate bizarre concepts such as the Nottingham Forest board, holidays for overworked (sic) goalkeepers, £35,000-a-week wages and someone called the Football Association compliance officer is unlikely to have much grasp on reality

Certainly there is a sense of the surreal about Fowler's position today. All week he has been denying reports linking him to Arsenal, so where does he get the chance to check out the facilities? That's right: Highbury. Someone is trying to tell him something.

The emphasis was always going to be on strikers (and before Arsène Wenger's briefs get twitchy we are talking scorers not punchers), because Arsenal have fewer goals than any other team in the top 10 and it is no secret they are searching for someone. Cue Fowler who. happily enough, has just bought a property in north London.

To add a twist to the tale. Fowler is not guaranteed a place in Liverpool's starting line-up today, which goes to show what substitutes can cost these days. And it can he assumed a place on the bench is unlikely to help the contract

Arsenal, meanwhile, wel-

SAMPDORIA, THE Genoan chib

"supervised" by David Platt the does not hold the requisite

coaching qualification), host

Bologna in tomorrow's live

Channel 4 game in Serie A.

Platt, who signed Lee Sharpe

on loan from Leeds on Tuesday.

will be hoping for better luck

than on Wednesday, when

Samp lost 1-0 to Fiorentina, the

That left Samp in 14th place,

just two points outside the rel-

egation zone. Sharpe is

league leaders.

about considering he has scored 12 League goals with the absent Dennis Bergkamp. Whichever strike force prevails it will sully a run, because both sides have three consecutive League victories. Liverpool, it should be remembered, were the only team to complete the double over the Double-winners last season.

While that will add spice at Highbury, the passions will need nothing at St James' Park where Newcastle versus Chelsea represents Gullit's first meeting with the club that sacked him 11 months ago. At the time Chelsea's chair-

man, Ken Bates, showed typi-

Sharpe may face Bologna for Platt

ITALIAN FOOTBALL

the striker Vincenzo Montella

returns, but Samp will be with-

out Ariel Ortega, their brilliant

Argentinian playmaker, who is suspended, the Yugoslav

Nenad Sakic, defender Moreno

Mannini and striker Zoran

Bologna dropped to eighth

place following Wednesday's

1-0 home defeat to Lazio, but

Jovicic, who are all injured.

BY IAN DAVIES

expected to make his debut, and that was no disgrace as Rome's

slice of our budget for a part-time playboy." It is probably safe to say that while his supporters cherish wins over Sunderland, Gullit would prefer to crush second-placed Chelsea.

The Londoners could go top, although it would involve their winning at Newcastle and Aston Villa drawing, or worse, at Middlesbrough. A few weeks ago the latter would have seemed likely but since Boro lost their 14-month unbeaten home record to Liverpool they have had three consecutive defeats.

At Goodison, Everton supporters can watch a side managed by O'Neill with the uneasy feeling that it might have been their own. He was the first cal diplomacy by saying: "We choice as replacement for

big spenders promise to be

one of the major players in the

battle for the Scudetto.

Bologna, who have conceded

just 12 goals in 15 games, will

be without the defenders

Michele Paramatti and Gio-

vanni Bia, the Brazilian mid-

fielder Eriberto and the winger

Carlo Nervo. However.

Giuseppe Signori, their top

scorer with seven goals, will

Oeher games: Cagliari v Roma; Empoli v Milan: Piocenzo v Parma; Internazionale v Venezia; Juventus v Bari; Perugia v Udi-nese; Vicenza v Salemitano,

lead the line.

Leicester, Walter Smith was appointed. While no one can knock the sense he brought with him ARSENE WENGER, the Arsenal BY TOMMY STANIFORTH from Glasgow some might like a few frills too. In the home of the 0-0 draw, it goes without say-

ing today's game will be tight. Which is not how you could describe Tottenham, who arrive at Hillsborough fresh from a 5-3 FA Cup win over Waiford which you would think would be an anathema for George Graham. Add four goals in the previous game to David Ginola's resurgence and White Hart Lane is a Premiership clash 12 days undergoing a culture-shock as Scrooge undergoes his transformation into Happy Larry. Pleat, Tottenham's director

of football, will also be entitled to a small smile himself when he goes back to the club that sacked him last season. After all, be had bought and primed a time-bomb called Paulo Di Canio before he left. Elsewhere, Southampton

versus Charlton will not clarify the relegation issues, manageriess Forest will travel to fellow strugglers Coventry and Brian Kidd's unbeaten run as Blackburn manager will face its stiffest test against Leeds.

Kidd, of course, spent many years avoiding being No 1, so who was named manager of the month yesterday? Not only the fixture computer has a sense of paradox

come Nicolas Anelka, who must wonder what the fuss is slice of our budget for a part-but when he preferred to stay at but when he preferred to stay at

manager, insists be will retain his right to freedom of speech despite the warning he has received from the Football Association's "sleazebuster" after he called Neil Redfearn, the Charl-

ton midfielder, a cheat. Wenger's remarks, which came after Patrick Vieira was sent off for an elbowing retaliation that left Redfearn on the floor clutching his face during ago, infuriated the Charlton manager, Alan Curbishley, and started a war of words which is still rumbling on.

Graham Bean, the former police officer who recently started work as the FA liaison officer, contacted Wenger on Thursday with a clear indication that such comments run the risk of provoking a disrepute charge. However, Wenger re-sponded: "I don't know how he'll stop me saying what I believe - unless he puts me in jail."

Wenger, after watching a video of the Vieira sending-off incident, was adamant that Redfearn made the Arsenal player's offence look much worse than it was by going down with his hands held to his face, even though any contact was clearly made with his

asked my opinion about it and I said I believed Redfearn was a cheat on that occasion. If you ask me 50 more times I will say the same. I don't know why I should change it. But I have the greatest respect for Alan Curbishley and Charlton and do not feel I have attacked them.

Curbishley defended Redfearn following Wenger's comments but the Arsenal manager then pointed to statistics showing the Charlton player had committed more fouls than anybody else in the

Premiership this season. Manchester United are running the risk of losing Denis Irwin for nothing because of a delay in contract talks. United's Irish defender is free to leave Old Trafford at the end of the season and has been waiting for contract talks to start for months. Another year at Old Trafford would entitle him to a testimonial. Blackburn Rovers, Leeds and Manchester City could all be interested if he becomes available.

Carl Cort, the Wimbledon striker, has asked referee Graham Poil to rescind the red card he received for fighting in the Dons' third round FA Cup vicshoulder. Wenger said: "I was tory over Manchester City.

"Anyone who sees the incident will know that there's nothing in it." Cort said.

Paolo Di Canio is expected to make his peace with Sheffield Wednesday and return to Hillsborough at the end of the month, his agent said yesterday. The Italian striker has already served an 11-match ban for pushing over referee Paul Alcock during a game against Arsenal last September. He has also been fined two weeks' wages for not returning to Vednesday after his suspension

ended in December. Ian Stott, the Oldham chairman, wants to become the new chairman of the Football Association. Stott is already a member of the FA's influential management committee and feels he is ideally suited to succeed Keith Wiseman, who was forced out over the "cash-for-

votes" scandal. Ultra-right Atletico Madrid supporters smashed windows and painted slogans on the door of the Spanish Football Federation headquarters in protest at the jailing of Jesus Gil, the club's president. Gil, who is also mayor of Marbella, was sent to jail without bail on Thursday, accused of illegally funnelling town hall funds to

Atletico.

العكذا من الاعل

INDEPENDENT

lit Weekend guide to the Premiership



Arsenal v Liverpool

Premiership table for 1998

Aston Villa

Man Urd

Chelsea

Liverpool

West Ham

Leicester

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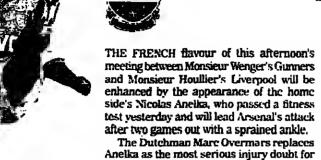
leading teams of 1998

one of the

Newcastle

MATCH OF THE WEEKEND

Last season: 0-1



The Dutchman Marc Overmars replaces Anelka as the most serious injury doubt for Wenger, having had a reaction to a kick on the knee he received in the 4-2 FA Cup win at Preston on Monday. The Dutchman had to pull out of training yesterday and his manager said his chances of playing today were little more than 20 per cent. Portugal's Luis Boa Morte (left) will wait until this afternoon to see if he will be switched from his usual

BY NICK HARRIS

central striking position to the left-wing to replace Overmars, allowing the return from illness of Christopher Wreh to partner Anelka up front in the continued absence of Dennis Bergkamp. Arsenal are still without England internationals David Seaman, Tony Adams and Niget Winterburn and Sweden's Fredrik Ljungberg, as well as their two Argentinian recruits Nelsoo Vivas isuspended) and striker Fabian Caballero (flu), but will be buoyed by the recent resurgence in form that has en three straight Premiership wins.

Winterburn has not sufficiently recovered from hamstring trouble to take over again from Vivas at left-back and the job will now

go to one of two teenagers - Matthew Upson or David Grondin.

Liverpool's renaissance under Houllier faces its hardest test in recent weeks despite being unbeaten in their last 11 matches against Arsenal. The Reds, like their hosts. have also won three League games on the trot - to temporarily silence the critics who say they are too inconsistent to mount a viable title challenge - but must produce results against genuine contenders to secure a place in the same company.

Houllier has to decide whether to bring back striker Robbie Fowler (right) to the starting line-up. The England forward, who is being linked with a move to Highbury. missed the Reds' 42 League win against

Seventeen clubs played all the 1998 league football in the top flight

23

Nationwide combined table for 1998, placings 21 - 68 21 Macclesfield (67 points), 22 Colchester (661; 23 Sheff Utd (65); 24 Torquay [64); 25 Norwich (63], 26 Swansea (63); 27 Rotherham (62]; 28 Tranmere (62).

29 Blackpool (62]; 30 Chesterfield (62]; 31 Bristol Rovers (61); 32 Luton (61],

29 Blackpool (62]: 30 Chesterfield (62]: 31 Bristol Rovers (61): 32 Luton (61]: 33 Darlington (61): 34 Rochdale (61): 35 Stoke (61): 36 Wrexham (61): 37 Wolves (60): 39 Peterborough (60): 39 Man City (60): 40 West Brom (58): 41 Plymouth (58): 42 Shrewsbury (58): 43 Barnet (57): 44 Northampton (57): 45 Bristol City (56): 46 Stockport (56]: 47 Burnley (56): 48 Scarborough (56): 49 Bury (56]: 50 Oxford (55): 51 York (54]: 52 Wycombe (53): 53 Millwall (53): 54 Crewe (52): 55 Chester (52): 56 Portsmouth (51): 57 Brighton (51): 59 Lincoln (50): 59 Port Vale (48): 60 Hartlepcol (47): 61 Exeter (47]: 62 QPR (47): 63 Reading (47): 64 Carlisle (46): 65 Southend (46): 66 Oldham (46): 67 Swindon

Oldham (46); 67 Swindon (44); 68 Hull (34).

Match of

the year

Match of 1998

have been

selected from

only Premiership

experience or players

with only First Division

players with either

The teams

Newcastle through injury, but came off the bench to score in the 3-0 FA Cup win at Port Vate. Houllier must decide whether to start with Fowler and Michael Owen in attack or to keep faith with Karlheinz Riedle. Captain Paul Ince is struggling with flu, but the Norwegian full-back Vegard Heggern should have recovered from the illness that kept him out of the Cup win. Sng Bjornebve is suspended, which gives an opportunity for Dominic Matteo or Steve Harkness to olay at left-back.

ARSENAL (Forth Manninger Dison, Kedwin, Bould, Grindin, Upschi Paritur Perit Mera, Arelia, Overmars, Boa Mortel Wrem, Mended, Jernadza, Garde, Lukio (gr.) LIMERPOOL STEET JAMES Higgers McReer, Caragner, Stranton Berth harkness Motters, Redkhapp, Ince, Berger, Owen Reset Fower, Fredet scame Thompson, Genard Suspensions: Arsenab Vivas Liverpools Bjornebye





Blackburn v Leeds United

Last season 3-4

KEVIN GALLACHER (calf) is doubtful, giving his manager of the month for December, Blackburn's Brian Kidd, problems in attack. Rovers' new striker, Ashley Ward, is the only one of five attackers definitely available as Kidd looks to extend his undefeated run in charge. Chris Sutton (knee) remains a long-term absentee, while Nathan Blake is still shaking off the flu. Kevin Davies is suspended. Captain Tim Sherwood and defenders Jeff Kenna and Callum Davidson, who missed last weekend's FA Cup win over Charlton with injuries, will be tested this morning. Longterm absentees Garry Flitcroft, Christian Dailly and Tim Flowers are still out. Darren Peacock is available after a ban.

Leeds' captain, Lucas Radebe, (knee) will not play today. David Wetherall is free from suspension to bolster the beart of the defence alongside Jonathon Woodgate in the absence of Radebe and casualties Robert Molenaar and Martin Hiden, David Batty also remains out with a cracked rib, while new signing Willem Korsten has returned home briefly to the Netherlands and will return early next week.

BLACKBURN | From |; Filan, Croft, Perez, Henchoz, Broomes, McKinlay, Wilcox, Mar-colm, Gillespie, Gallacher, Outf. Fetris, Dunn, Ward, Sherwood, Kenna, Davidson, Blake, Johnson, Konde, Taylor, Peacock, LEEDS UNITED (from), Martyn, Haaland, Wetherall, Wijnhard, Hasselbank, Ribeiro, Bowyer, Hopkin, Gramville, Halle, Kewell, Harte, Woodgate, McPhail, Smitn, Jock-son, Robinson,

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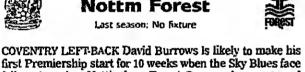
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Coventry v **Nottm Forest**



fellow strugglers Nottingham Forest. Burrows has recovered from a hamstring injury and his return is welcome as George Boateng and Steve Froggatt are both suspended after reaching five yellow cards each. Paul Telfer and John Aloisi are also expected to feature in the starting line-up. Nottingham Forest's caretaker manager, Micky Adams, has

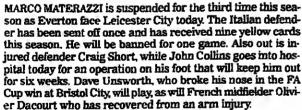
a fully fit 5 quad at his disposal. Adams, appointed following the g of Dave Bassett, changes to the starting line-up but is refusing to give any clues. Striker Pierre van Hooridonk will, however, return to the starting line-up after serving a three-match ban. "If the lads want to dedicate anything they get from the game to Dave, it's down to them but I'd like to think they'd do it for themselves," Adams said vesterday. "They've got to get themselves going again. I think there's enough spirit and ability in the team to dig themselves out of the position they're in."

Boland, Ograzowa, NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): Beasant, Lyttle, Louis-Jean Bonalair, Rogers, Armstrong, Chette, Hjelde, Stone, Iohnson, Germilli, Quashie, Bati Williams, Van Hool-idonk, Freedman, Harewood, Darcheville, Shipperley, Hodges, Gray, Crossley. ms: Coventry: Boateng, Froggall.



Everton v Leicester

Last season: 1-1



Leicester hope to have captain Steve Walsh, winger Andv Impey and defender Pontus Kaamark fit for today's game. Kaamark would have been back in the side much earlier after getting over an Achilles problem but then suffered a back spasm. Walsh has had a rib injury and Impey a damaged calf. Garry Parker and Graham Fenton are both likely to be kept out with injuries picked up in a midweek reserve match against Liverpool. The former Everton striker Tony Cottee returns to Goodison Park only two goals away from 200 in league football. EVERTON (hom): Mylve, Bilic, Watson, Unsworth, Dunne, Ball, Hutchison, Dacourt Grant, Barmby, Oster, Bakayoko, Cadamarteri, Branch, Simonsen, Cleland, Jeffers, LEICESTER CNY (from): Keller, Arphexad, Guppy, Walsh, Taggart, Ullathorne, Sinclar, Elliott, Izzet, Lennon, Cottee, Zagorakis, Heskey, Impey, Marshall, Campbell, Wilson, Oakes, Kaamark, Packer, Fenton.



Middlesbrough v Aston Villa

es: Everton: Materazzi.

Last season: No fixture



THE MIDDLESBROUGH midfielder Robbie Mustoe is very unlikely to start as the Teessiders prepare to play hosts to the Premiership leaders today. Mustoe is struggling with a hamstring injury, while defender Colin Cooper misses out through suspension. Italian Gianluca Festa will play despite breaking his nose for the fifth time in training this week. Today's visitors have lost only once in their last four trips to Teesside.

Villa will welcome back midfielder Ian Taylor and striker Dion Dublin for the game. The duo both missed last weekend's FA Cup success over Hull City with groin problems. Dublin seems certain to return, possibly at the expense of Stan Collymore, who scored twice against Hull. Taylor is likely to take over from Mark Draper in midfield as Villa seek to record a de over Middlesbrough, having beaten them 3-1 at Villa Park new year. With Alex Ferguson planning to stick as closely as possible to last weekhompson, who is facing six weeks on the sidelines with an ankle end's winning FA Cup line-up, the bench ligament injury, and Paul Merson who is still attempting to shake off his back problem.

AMIDDLESBROUGH (from): Schwarzer, Beresford, Fleming, Gordon, Vickers, Pal-lister, Festa, Goscowne, Townsend, Maddison, Ricard, Deane, Szamp, Beck, Harri-son, Stockdale, Blackmore, Kinder, Moore.

ASTON VILLA (from): Cakes, Watson, Eniogu, Southgase, Barry, Wright, Hendrie, Scimeca, Draper, Dublin, Joachim, Taylor, Collymore, Grayson, Charles, Vassell, Lescon, Rachel.

ens: Boro: Cooper. Referee: U Rennic.

...And statistics

THIS WEEKEND sees the first full league programme of the New Year and Arsenal start 1999 as reigning champions not only of the Premier League, but of the rop clubs' table for the calendar year of 1998, Although they started the year in sixth place in the top-flight and finished it in fourth, in between they put in 38 League games that saw them lose only five and concede a miserly 21 goals.

The calendar year table illustrates the dip n League form affecting Manchester United. In 1997 they romped home with the title by a clear 18 points from Chelsea, In 1998 they were 13 points adrift of the Gunners, Blackburn, however, show the largest dlp in fortunes, 1997 saw them equal-second on points with Chelsea, whereas in the 1998 table they languish at the foot of the teams that have played all the 1998 League football in the Premiership.

Premiership / First Division table
Six clubs split their football last year between the Premiership and the First Division

	P	w	D	L	F	Α	Pts
Middlesbrough	41	19	13	9	66	47	70
Bolton	42	16	14	12	68	60	62
Charlton	41	16	12	13	57	46	60
Nottm Forest	41	15	11	15	57	55	56
Bainsley	43	14	11	18	58	64	53
C Palace	42	12	8	22	55	85	44

Sunderland and Ipswich are clearly the Nationwide teams of last year. Sunderland have even managed an average of well over two goals an outing, toswich look to have the stronger defence although fewest Nationwide goals have been conceded by Gillingham of the Second Division, with only 29 in 44 games. The top two Nationwide teams in 1997 were Bristol City and Watford,

who experienced contrasting form in 1998. Warford have maintained City have sunk to 45th out of the 68 teams that have played all their 1998 League football In the Nationwide League.

Nationwide combined table for 1998 The top 20 of the 68 clubs who played all their League foorball in the Nationwide League, Irrespective of Divisions

1	•		_	_		• •		
Sunderland	48	30	13	5	103	44	103	
Ipswich	48	30	11	7	84	33	101	
Birmingham	47	23	14	10	77	42	83	
Fulham	44	25	7	12	66	34	82	
Mansfield	46	27	13	11	71	54	79	
Watford	47	20	17	10	72	61	77	
Gillingharn	44	20	17	7	56	29	77	
Scunthorpe	46	22	9	15	67	60	75	
Grimsby	48	21	12	15	55	47	75	
Notts Co	44	21	10	13	68	53	73	
Bournemouth	43	21	9	13	61	45	72	
Preston	44	18	16	10	66	52	70	
Huddersfield	47	20	10	17	63	75	70	
Walsall	46	20	10	16	52	51	70	
Cambridge	44	19	12	13	66	52	69	
Brentford	43	20	9	14	62	57	69	
Leyton Orient	45	18	14	13	59	53	68.	
Bradford City	46	19	10	17	67	61	67	
Wigan	46	18	13	15	59	S2	67	
Cardiff	46	18	13	15	S7	47	67	ė
• had three pol	nts d	educt	ed, r	e-ins	tated i	here	1	100
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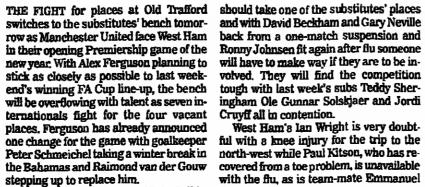


Graphic: Kate Brundrett

TOMORROW'S GAME (4.0)

Manchester United v West Ham Last season: 2-1





and with David Beckham and Gary Neville back from a one-match suspension and Ronny Johnsen fit again after flu someone will have to make way if they are to be involved. They will find the competition tough with last week's subs Teddy Sheringham Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Jordi Cruyff all in contention.

West Ham's Ian Wright is very doubtful with a knee injury for the trip to the north-west while Paul Kitson, who has recovered from a toe problem, is unavailable with the flu, as is team-mate Emmanuel The rookie goalkeeper Nick Colkin

Julian Dicks (knee) and Lee Hodges (groin) are definitely not in contention, but Frank Lampard, who had the flu last week, is okay, as is Rio Ferdinand who returns after a back problem. Frenchman Marc Keller is still on the injured list and will take no part in the proceedings to-

Statistics: Brian Sears.

morrow. MANCHESTER UNITED (from): Van der Gouw, Brown. Stam, Berg, Irwin, Giggs, Biomquist, Keane, Bust, Cole, Yorke, Sheringham, Pkvalle, Cruyff, Solskiper, G Newile, Beckham, Johnsen, Colkin.

WEST HAM UNITED (from): Hislop, Breacker, Ports. Ruddock, Sinclair, Haitson, Lomas, Wright, Ferdmand, Moncur, Lazardos, Lampard, Pearce, Porrest, Abou.



Newcastle v Chelsea

Last season: 3-1



THE FRENCH defender Didier Domi looks likely to get his Premiership debut as Newcastle United manager Ruud Gullit welcomes his former club Chelsea to St James' Park this afternoon. A late decision will be taken on the inclusion of Domi's compatriot Louis Saha, who joined the club on loan until the end of the season as cover for injured striker Duncan Ferguson. Gullit also has captain Roh Lee and defender Steve Howey back from injury. Newcastle have lost only once at home in the oast 19 visits of today's opponents. 3-1 in November 1985.

Chelsea's player-manager Gianluca Vialli has little option but to pick himself up front alongside Gianfranco Zola, Chelsea's five strikers at the start of the season have now become just two, with Tore Andre Flo out for at least six weeks with an ankle problem and Pierluigi Casiraghi a long-term injury casualty and Brian Laudrup having returned to Denmark. Gustavo Poyet is also still out but Vialli has no new injury worries to contend with, although left-sided midfielder Celestine Babayaro is serving a one-match suspension.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): Given, Harper, Borron, Chanver, Domi, Dabigas, Howey Hughes, Lee, Speed, Glass, Solano, Hamann, Shearer, Andersson, Necsbaia, Pearce, Brady CHELSEA (from). De Goey, Hitchtock, Leboeuf, Derailly, Le Saux, Ferret, Myers, Duberry, Petrescu, Di Marieo, Wise, Goldback, Newton, Nicholis, Morris, Terry, Vialli, Zola, Forssell spensions; Chelsea; Babayaro. Referee: O Gallagher



Sheff Wed v **Tottenham**

Last season: 1-0



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 5triker Andy Booth remains manager Danny Wilson's major doubt today. Booth missed last week's 4-1 FA Cup victory over Norwich with an ankle injury. which led to a forward partnership of two-goal Ritchie Humphreys and Benito Carbone. Centre-back Emerson and Dutch international midfielder Wim Jonk should be fit despite both being substituted against Norwich with thigh and knee injuries respectively.

Ruel Fox (knee) is out of the Tottenham team and it could ager George Graham's two new signings. Steffen Freund (£750,000 from Borussia Dortmund) and Mauricio Taricco (£1.7m from Ipswich) have both been named in an 18-man squad. Graham's other selection problem is whether to recall striker Chris Armstrong, who missed the 5-2 FA Cup win over Watford through suspension - just six days after scoring a hat-trick against Everton. His replacement, Steffen Iversen, scored twice in the cup tie and it could mean Les Ferdinand being left out. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): Smicek, Atherton, Jonk, Newsome, Walker, Car-bone, Booth, Hyde, Humphreys, Briscoe, Stefanovic, Hinchcliffe, Emerson, Mag-ifron, Rud, Alexanderson, Sonner, Mortison, Pressman. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): Waker, Carr, Young, Campbell, Sinton, Edinburgh, Taricco Anderton, Calderwood, Neitsen, Clemence, Freund, Ginola, Domingues, Iversen, Armstlong, Ferdinand, Baardsen.

Referee: G Willard.



Southampton v Charlton

Last season: No fixture



SOUTHAMPTON'S DAVE JONES is facing injury problems ahead of today's crucial relegation match with Chariton. Matt Le Tissier is likely to miss his third successive game (recurrence of calf injury), Carlton Palmer (ankle) is struggling, while Moroccan international Hassan Kachloul and Stuart Ripley are suffering from a flu virus. Defender Scott Hiley has a neck problem. Norwegian Claus Lundekvarn is hopeful of recovering from a groin injury which caused him to limp out of last weekend's 1-1 draw against Fulham but defenders Gary Monk and Phil Warner are unavailable with one match bans. Also out are David Hirst and John Beresford (long-term knee problems) while Francis Benali (broken arm) is out until next month.

Charlton's Alan Curbishley could give a debut to Swedish international striker Martin Pringle. Curbishley has completed Pringle's signing from Benfica on loan until the end of the season. Steve Jones returns hut Carl Tiler is suspended and Paul Mortimer bas received a setback to the ankle injury he picked up in early December.

SOUTHAMPTON (from): Jones, Hiley, Collecter, Monkou, Lundekvam, Oakley, Dodd Palmer, Kachloul, M.Hughes, Ostenstad, Beathe, Howells, Basham, Bridge, Ripley CHARLION ATHLETIC (from): Ilic, Mills, Powell, Redfearn, Rufus, Youds, Kinsel la, Hunt, Robinson, Parker, Jones, Pringle, Newton, Holmes, Bright, Konchesky, Royce



Wimbledon v **Derby County**





WIMBLEDON'S CHRIS PERRY is available after missing last week's 1-0 FA Cup win over Manchester City through suspension. Dean Blackwell is still struggling with a calf injury. Robbie Earle is another doubt with a hamstring problem, which is threatening to force the Jamaican international, substituted last week, to miss his first league game of the season. Record signing Gareth Ainsworth will be out for a further six weeks after his groin injury was discovered to be more serious than first thought. The former Port Vale winger will undergo an operation on Monday. Reserve goalkeeper Paul Heald has not returned to full fitness so Morten Bakke, who plays for Norwegian side FK Molde - the team owned by the Dons' Scandinavian backers - will carry on as understudy to Neil Sullivan.

Derby's Deon Burton looks likely to remain on the bench despite his two goals at Plymouth in the FA Cup last week. Paulo Wanchope returns from a one-game ban to replace the Jamaican international. Jim Smith can also call on Tony Dorigo, Stefan Schnoor and Francesco Baiano after injuries plus Darryl Powell wbo returns from a ban.

TAMBLEDOM (from) Suithon, Peny, Thatcher, Kimble, Cunningham, Ardiev, Gayle arle, M Hughes, Euell, Leaburn, Ekoku, Kennedy, Cori, Roberts, Bakke, Ç Hugh es. Francis.

DERBY COUNTY (from): Poom. Prior. Carbonari. Elliott. Laursen, Carsley. Eranio. Powelt, Bohinen, Dongo. Sturridge, Wanchope, Burton, Hoult, Harper, Hunt, Barano. Schnoor, Kozluk

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accused of illegality ig lown hall funds to





GULLIT OLD BOYS' REUNION P30 • HENMAN TOPPLES TARANGO P27

Warne tells of cash gift at casino

IT READS like a John Le Carré novel and, if the master storyteller were to use the hearing BY NICK RIPPINGTON which began in Melbourne yes terday as the basis for his latest best-seller, be might well title it "Batsman, bowler, bookmaker, spy?

The role of Le Carré's hero, George Smiley, has fallen to the Pakistan Cricket Board Counsel, Ali Sibtain Fazli, who yesterday resumed his difficult role of unveiling the truth behind murky allegations of bribery and corruption in international cricket. Fazli has travelled thousands of miles to interview the Australian cricketers Mark Waugh and Shane Warne about their being offered \$200,000 (£120,000) each by the Pakistan captain, Salim Malik, to throw matches. He is also questioning them about their decision to accept thousands of dollars from a bookmaker they met in Sri Lanka in September 1994, to whom they supplied pitch and weather reports.

dealings began in a casino in was offered, and accepted, tables in the Sri Lankan capital, believing there were "no strings attached".

Warne told the Pakistani government inquiry into match-fixing and bookmaking that he had

been introduced to a man called "John" by his team-mate Mark Waugh, the prolific middleorder batsman, "John" had approached Warne the next day and told him he had noticed that be had lost money at the casino and added that be was his favourite player.

Warne told the inquiry that "John" had given him an envelope containing the money which be had at first rejected. "He handed me an envelope. I looked in the envelope and saw that there was money in it," Warne said. 'He said: Please accept it as a token of my appreciation for you to take the time to meet me." Warne said he told the bookmaker. Tve got my own money, I'm fine, thanks."

meet you, please take it. I don't want anything in return."

Warne said be again tried to Yesterday the plot thickened. reject the money but finally ac-According to the two men, the cepted it when the bookmaker said he had plenty of money and Colombo in 1994. Warne said he would be offended if Warne refused the envelope. The bowler \$5,000 after losing money at the said be had never seen the man again, although he had been contacted by him several times with requests for information on weather and pitch conditions before matches in Australia.

"However I never gave any final chapter begins.

information that was not generally available to the public and indeed, as a senior Australian cricketer, I regularly provide a lot more detailed information about playing conditions to the media," Warne said. "I appreciate now that I made a mistake. At the time I was 24. I was naïve and stupid. I regret my actions."

Waugh told the inquiry that he was also paid to supply weather and pitch information about 10 times to the same Indian bookmaker. "He offered \$4,000 for providing such information," Waugh said. "I told him that I was prepared to talk to him about pitch and weather conditions, but not individuals, team tactics, or team selection."

Waugh said be had no knowledge of a match between Australia and Pakistan in Sri Lanka during the 1994 Singer Cup tournament being rigged. He "He said: It's a pleasure to also denied knowing anything about match-fixing allegations involving Essex and Lancashire in 1991 when Malik played for the south East county. Waugh said he was not with Essex at the time.

The inquiry was continuing today with evidence from Tim May, another player who accused Malik of trying to bribe him, and the then Australian team manager Alan Crompton. There are sure to be more

twists and turns before the



Queensland's Jimmy Maher avoids a run-out by John Crawley during England's 92-run win in Brisbane yesterday Report, page 26; Photograph: Empics

THE SATURDAY CROSSWORD

No.3815 Saturday 9 January by Phi

Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution

ACROSS

Gather a Sunday School curtailed Mark

6 Nothing delivered to bar in Scottish town (4) 9 Attack Custody Bill (6) 10 Aviation pioneer almost created movement in the air - a great suc-

11 Traveller's guide - edi-tion (English) carried by tradesmen (8) 12 French city with man entering outlying parts (6)

13 Slews off sale price?

16 No longer depressed, unexpectedly? (42.3,4) 19 Reprieve? Agree charge should be held back (6) 20 Disrupted another's

supply of water (5.3)
22 Dictionary contains
word for "beer" in local parlance (7)

23 A copper gets blokes with astuteness (6) 24 Dress up in some suits

25 Caught French friend only m an item of lin-gerie (8)

GET ON THE BLOWER, DEE

DOWN 2 School days over, imbibing quiet drink (8)
3 Monarch, blushing,

made a slip (5) Meal arranged for those retiring early?

(9,2,3) Restriction thus restricts business qualifi-

cation (7)
A lovebird possibly showing a green colour (5.4) Complaint as the man ignores a couple of points (6)

Noble Prince, and therefore male in orientation (4.2.3,5)
14 Cold, thundering
repository - of rain,
presumably (5-4)
15 Capital of France - one

there's extremely gloomy (8)
17 Supporter - it's one caught up in activity of AFC (7)

18 Support and advice comes from this man of course (6)

21 Drags painter round University (5)

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last two weeks' winners: M Mason, Beesbon; G Handley, Chreshunt, G Lunt, Lichfield; H Ward, Radcliffe-On-Brent; D Kelly, West Malling; M Klucowicz, N18; T Starr, Cambridge; A Buchanan, Burnley; R Castell, Newton Abbot; P Jackson, W1.

Uttley shown door as RFU sheds 30 jobs

BY CHRIS HEWETT

near as bealthy as their form.

that any new cross-border

championship coming into ef-

fect next season would leave

them outside the top flight, ir-

respective of whether they

qualify for promotion under

the terms of the now discred-

ited Mayfair Agreement ham-

mered out by the RFU and the

ROGER UTTLEY and Don Rutherford, two of the most in-fluential figures in post-war English rugby, were among the big-name fall guys yesterday as Francis Baron, the new chief executive of the Rugby Football Unico, ripped through Twickenham like a supercharged Jonah Lomu. Uttley the England team manager, and Rutherford, the national director of rugby, saw their jobs disappear as Baron completed his first cost-cutting assault on the badged and blazered ranks of RFU officialdom.

Thirty of the union's 191 staff were either made redundant or railroaded into early retirement as Baron brought his hardnosed business approach to bear on what he decided was a flabby administrative structure. Richard Field and Ken Whitehead, respectively director of marketing and director of support services, were also given the beave-ho, while David Fison, the financial director, amounced he would leave later this year. Baron's swingeing cuts were

leading professional clubs last spring. They see a buy-out of London Scottish as one way, al-beit a radical one, of guaranteeing themselves a place at the big boys' table.

Nick de Scossa, the Bristol chief executive, said negotations were at an advanced stage.

"It's something we are being forced to consider because of RUGBY UNION opinions that are being expressed behind the scenes in the

introduced as English rugby polnegotiations for next season," he itics took another bizarre turn said. "We began this season knowing that, under the terms of the Mayfair Agreement, we with the news that Bristol, the Allied Dunbar Premiership Two leaders, were planning a would go up as a matter of takeover bid for London Scottish, course if we won promotion. As the Premiership One team things currently stand, that will whose finances are nowhere not happen. It is not something we irtend to allow." Bristol are deeply concerned

Back at Twickenham, Baron pointed to a series of debilitating multi-million pound losses as justification for his cuts. "The RFU lost £10.3m in the last two years and our projected loss this year has increased from the £1.4m budgeted to a likely deficit of £2.3m," he said. "There has been a management vacuum here and everyone is going to suffer a degree of pain."

Uttley said last night: "This is a buge disappointment. Having gone through the mill to sort things out at England level, recent results showed we were beginning to get it right." Ulster's challenge, page 23

The new club would be based at a new stadium near Oldham. Under current Nationwide League rules on mergers, the club would have to commence its

question of survival."

Oldham,

Bury and

Rochdale

may unite

FOOTBELL

OLDHAM ATHLETIC, Bury and Rochdale are holding merger

talks about becoming one club.

which may be called Man-

The radical move to pool

resources, cut staff and play at

a new ground was confirmed by

the Oldham chairman, Ian

Stott, on Thursday. All three

clubs are struggling financially and Stott revealed that they

are considering the plan as

"I have already discussed

the possibility with my coun-

terparts at Bury and Rochdale

and they see the long-term

benefits of such a venture," he

said. "There would be horren-

three clubs who would be

opposed to the idea. But it is a

dous problems, fans from all

the only way forward.

chester North End.

The Dr

ew :::

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ARTS BOOKS COUNTRY GARDEN



INDEPENDENT,

sage 26. Photograph Em

Oldham,

Bury and

Rochdale

FOOTBALL ALI HAM STREETIC BOYS in this ware holding mape

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THE PLIGHT OF THE AGEING **ROCK STAR**

FEATURES, PAGE 9



BITING BACK AT THE **WOOLF PACK**

BOOKS, PAGE 15

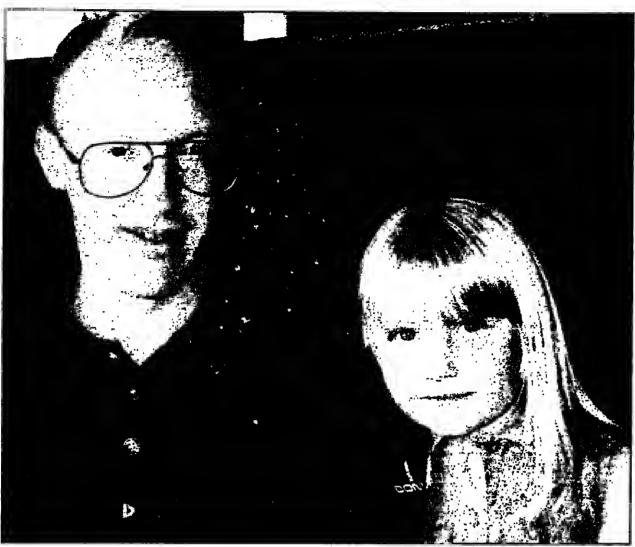
HOW MUCH IS YOUR GARDEN **COSTING YOU?**

GARDENING, PAGE 17



FAR FROM THE **MADDENING CROWDS**

SKIING, PAGE 25





'A quiet, law-abiding couple': Jeff and Jenny Bramley with their foster children, Jade Bennett, 5, and ber half-sister Hannah, 3

Dobson's

VC OII UICI

The Bramleys with limited funds, have escaped police detection for four months. It might seem astonishing except when you consider who would turn in a childless couple desperate to keep the foster children they love

new that the thin ruhber bridges between the treads are still intact and the treads themselves are clean. It is still a mystery to police why Jenny and Jeff Bramley, on the run for four months with their foster children - Jade Bennett, E, and her halfsister Hannah, 3 - bought the expensive tyres for the family's blue, G-registration Honda Concerto, only to abandon the car in a residential street in York at least six weeks ago.

But the Honda, which was recovered last week and is now sitting in a lock-up at St Ives police station, near Cambridge, provides the first real trace of the couple who disappeared from their home in nearby Ramsey the day before they were to hand back to Cambridgeshire social services has problems, lans from the children they adored, and had fostered for six months with a view to adoption.

Inside St Ives police station, in an investigation room plastered with already-fading newspaper cuttings about the Bramleys' flight, two large plastic bags of clothes and belongings, left in the car boot, present more puzzles.

There is Hannah's pink anorak with fluffy, white-fake-fur-trimmed hood, and a similar winter jacket, in maroon, belonging to Jade Jeff, 34, and Jenny, 35, also left jackets behind. So slight and small is Jenny that hers was hought

in the teenage section of a department store. Why did they leave behind the clothes - along with children's car seats, an empty handbag and a stack of plastic-wrapped tea bags - when these did not figure in any description issued by the police? Officers were unable to establish what

clothes the family had with them. The car is the police's biggest - in fact, only -breakthrough. Remarkably, it sat in the same authority claims that this is the first time in 10 years that it has terminated such a placement. ported it to police, despite all the "tug-of-love" publicity and a description of the car - still bear much in their short lives is indisputable. It is just ing its publicised registration number - having over a year since their mother - apparently un-

been issued by police. The Honda's discovery, and a "good" subsequent sighting of the family by a retired clergyman on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway last weekend, means hope for a policy team hither-to bereft of leads. Seven S Tives officers have

ergeant Mark Nicholson scurried north, but excitement is mixed with points to two Pisalli tyres, so trepidation. There have already been sightings, from Ireland to Lanzarote. This one, like the others, could amount to nothing. For the Bramleys, a quiet, law-abiding couple described by relatives as "Wr and Mrs Average", have proved to be formidable fugitives, as elusive to the police as

quicksilver. "I expected we would find them in

a matter of days," admits Mr Nicholson ruefully. "In this day and age, in this country, it is amazing they have managed for so long." Just how the Bramleys are managing is the major puzzle. Though the couple are described: as frugal, the £5,000 in cash they took with them

have yet to draw on further funds. with small children. But the police are consid-

must now be close to running out. However, they The police have suggested before that the Bramleys have not been caught because they are "so ordinary", easily camouflaged among the bordes of other thirtysomethings trailing round

tively helping them, and that a public, blinded

by sympathy for a childless couple who must re-

turn the little girls they thought of as their own,

Bramleys were "too strict", and totally dismiss

rumours that they were considered too religious.

There is also absolutely no suggestion of any kind

of abuse. Quite simply, a spokesman says, it was

concluded "after working with the couple for six

months" that they lacked the special parenting

skills Jade and Hannah needed. The decision,

the spokesman insists, was not taken lightly. The

That the children had already suffered far too

able to cope - handed them over to social ser-

vices for adoption. They had already been with

one foster family before they were placed with

the Bramleys, who had never fostered before.

When the Bramkys gave them up, another set

of foster parents was poised to replace them.

Social services deny ever saying that the

is proving to be less vigilant than usual.

ered to have such special needs were placed with novice parents. The social services spokesman will only say it is "not a perfect science". But the Reverend Jack Cooper, the retired cleric who apparently spotted the family on the Yorkshire steam train, adds to a picture of parental inadequacy. He described the children as out of control, and said that the Bramleys - and particularly Jenny - looked depressed, worn-out

The public seems to prefer descriptions from the Bramleys' neighbours, of happy, well-caredfor children.

It is four years since the naked body of little Rikki Neave, who was on Cambridgeshire's at risk register, was found in a Peterborough wood. After his mother was jailed for child cruelty, the council admitted that it had tried too hard to keep Rikki within his birth family. Another scandal occurred two years ago when the ering two other possibilities: that someone is ac-"career paedophile" Keith Laverack, a former

Cambridgeshire senior social services manager,

was sentenced to 18 years for assaulting child-

ren in care. Those sympathetic to the Bramleys

just assume that "the bloody social workers have

The prevalent public feeling seems to be that the couple's flight is an act of love, not selfish-ness. But Mr Nicholson appeals to people - and

particularly anyone harbouring the Bramleys -

Jenny," he says. "And, yes, it is a sad story. But

think of the children; their upbringing has been

put on hold." Jade was due to start school in September. Her uniform is still hanging, unused, in

At his home near Colchester, Dave Bodle,

Like the police, the family had considered two

Jenny's brother, a civil servant, says that the dis-

covery of the Honda brought the couple's wor-

explanations for the failure to trace Jeff and

Jenny. With Felixstowe, Harwich and a handful

of other ports within easy reach of Ramsey, there

"The focus of the story has become Jeff and

We may ask why children who were consid- was always the strong possibility that they had fled the country. The other appalling option was that the couple and the children were dead.

For Ramsey has a reputation for losing people. Last century the ancient Fenland settlement was a thriving port. Left high and dry by time, it now sits at the edge of hundreds of miles of deep, water-filled drains, which prevent the fens being reclaimed by the sea. If a car leaves the road, by accident or design, it can be months before the vebicle and its occupants are recovered.

Dave and Jenny were born and grew up in Bury village, now an extension of Ramsey, where their father was sub-postmaster for 40 years. The small extended family is close and private. So it was easy to contemplate the worst when Jenny, who "has never been out of contact for more than a week" disappeared with-

Mr Bodle refuses to discuss social services' decision to remove the children, saying that criticism will have to come from Jeff and Jenny themselves. But he says that the couple, who had been married for 10 years, loved the Bennett sisters and were "devastated" when told that they could not keep them.

out a trace.

Mr Bodle, who has worked with people with special needs, says that while the children were "boisterous", they were not hyperactive or badly behaved.

"Jenny and Jeff are so quiet," he says. "So it was quite a contrast between them and the kids, but as a family group it seemed to work. The neighbours seemed to think so, as well."

He describes Jenny as bright but shy, like the husband sbe met when they both worked at the post office. Both, he claims, are logical and rational people. "You just would never have imagined they would do something as dramatic as this," he says. "But they found themselves in extraordinary circumstances."

He sympathises with the stress the couple have been under while trying to adopt the children. An attempt to challenge the council's decision in court failed; social services remained "judge and jury". "A friend of mine has been through this," says Mr Bodle, "and he says being under constant scrutiny from social services for six months was the worst time of his life."

Continued on page 2

Obituaries

12-13 Arts Books Country & Garden 17-18

BY MARY BRAID

got it wrong again".

to put the children first.

the abandoned house in Ramsey.

ried family some brief relief.

Listings 26-27 The week's TV Radio Today's TV

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SEVEN PAGES OF



TOMORROW IN THE INDEPENDENT **ON SUNDAY**

REVIEW



Picasso as you've never seen him before: new pictures from his photo album



Jeremy Clarke takes his dog, Tonto, to find a French boar

CULTURE



Asterix: can he save the French film industry?

REAL LIFE



What to wear when you have a cold or the flu

PLUS How to manage your New Year debt

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk (e-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address). Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Workers on call

Sir: Congratulations on the excellent article on call centres (Magazine, 2 January). It graphically illustrated the exploitation of workers in our "flexible" job market. The use of agency staff makes it possible for employers to avoid their moral obligation to attend to the welfare of their workers in terms of job security, employment rights and pay.

It is clear that telemarketing is a permanent feature of the way many businesses operate and people who work in these centres should be given permanent jobs with all the benefits that full-time staff are entitled to. The abuse of agency staff where the vast majority of employees are agency workers needs to be addressed in any "fairness at

work" legislation. Your article implied that ency staff are not entitled to join a union. That is not so. The Communications Workers Union (CWU) has a recognition agreement with Manpower plc and employees of other agencies are welcome to join. CLIVE WALDER Birmingham

Sir: Is Peter Stanford who wrote your report the same Peter Stanford who spent the day in BT's call centre in Newcastle?

Certainly, the Peter whom we saw confessed to a feeling of overall unease about what he saw as the grubby business of trade and commerce but then was honest enough to say how difficult he found it to reconcile that preconception with the bright, bubbly, enthusiastic and, yes, disciplined people he came across at every level throughout the centre.

No doubt it is easier to recycle individual tales of woe from pseudonymous former telesales workers and previously published material but it stands reality on its head to suggest that our team at Newcastle is "working in a dehumanised environment for low pay". For the record, advisers' average pay is around £9 per hour, with correspondingly increased ates for team and section leaders. Human factors are taken into account from the planning and design stages onwards. That includes the basics, from the eye-friendly lighting, comfortable chairs and plenty of space to the imaginative little things such as the non-spill BT cup which Peter gently mocks.

Peter, you said you were almost won over to a career in telemarketing. Perhaps another visit would take you that extra step. Certainly here you'd be working with a tremendous bunch of people in an exciting and growing industry. KATHLEEN DOBIE Director

BT Newcastle Call Centre Newcastle upon Tyme

Sir: The development of call centres and flexible working generally will produce an increasingly stratified workforce. While a majority of people will still enjoy tenured employment, there will be an increasing contrast with the lower-paid and less secure.

The United States has provided the model. There are more jobs, but also increasing inequality, uncertainty and long bours for the lower paid. There are benefits for

employers and employees in flexible approaches to employment, but these must not be at the expense of a new disadvantaged group. It is the responsibility of government to provide a strong enough framework to ensure that this



Welsh Portraits No 6: From left to right, Anne Rogers, Louise Fenn, Ceris Davies, Kathryn Game, Joanne Edwards from Bedwas in the Rhymney Valley, prepare for a night out

does not happen, which is likely to mean developing a European approach to labour relations. JOHN ORFORD

Rail disasters

Sir: Your report on the Virgin train that "ran out of puff" (4 January) is indeed farcical, but is not without precedent.

One day in January last year I boarded a Regional Railways North East train at Durham, bound for Newcastle upon Tyne, normally just twenty minutes up the main line. Two hours later I arrived in Newcastle, cold, enraged, and very late for work. The train had run out of diesel about two hundred yards after leaving the only stop on the Durham-Newcastle route, at

The train, unable to reverse the triffing distance to Chester-le-Street to allow passengers to disembark, sat blocking the main London-Edinburgh line for nearly ninety minutes. Passengers were prevented by train crew (rightly, I daresay) from dismounting and walking back along the line to the platform, on grounds of safety. It occurred to me as I

Sir: Is there any reason

why publishers cannot

Chester-le-Street

stood shivering in the corridor -for there had been no seats available as a result of the usual overcrowding, and the heating had been switched off -that if Regional Railways staff were so incompetent as to let their locomotive run out of fuel, what was to stop them routinely neglecting other basic aspects of running a train service, such as rollingstock maintenance and safety procedures?

At last a spare locomotive was sent to tow us up to Newcastle Central. It did not come as a huge surprise that the coupling gear on the front of our train was damaged to the point of uselessness, and that therefore the towing engine would have to go first to Durham and return to push us to Newcastle from the rear. This added an extra half-hour to our journey time.
Dr DOMINIC WATT

Sex on TV

Sir: Rhys Williams says, "The 9pm watershed is well understood" ("Too much sex on TV viewers say", 7 January). I recently complained to the BBC about the episode of Birds of a Feather broadcast at 8.30pm

on 23 November last year on precisely those grounds. Mr Fraser Steel of the BBC told me that "Although 9pm is the pivotal point in the evening's television, the earlier a programme is placed the more suitable it is likely to be for children to watch on their own". This is the first indication that I've ever had that the 9pm watershed is

The BBC wants to portray the changing composition and varied family values which make up Britain in 1999. However, when it comes to complaints they have a quaint 1950s view of family life. Mr Steel went on to tell me that "the BBC expect parents to share responsibility at all times of the day for assessing whether or not programmes should be seen by younger viewers". Mr Steel and his colleagues

in the BBC complaints department apparently live in a Reithian world where mothers don't have to work, fathers are always home in time for tea and all under 16year-olds are safely tucked up in bed at half past eight. DAVID HALLAM MEP (Herefordshire and Shropshire, Lab)

In the minefields Sir: We were appalled that allegations have been made or assumed of Mines Advisory Group involvement of any kind with accusations recently made that British or other government spies may be operating in Kurdish regions of Iraq treport, 8

The Mines Advisory Group is an impartial, politically neutral, civilian, humanitarian organisation registered as a charity. MAG is dedicated to stopping the loss of life and limb caused by landmines and unexploded ordnance. We do not operate in or close to known sensitive areas such as borders. Our sole focus is to return safe land to poor communities so as to reduce the suffering that landmines cause. This is the reason for our presence in northern Iraq and in many

other regions of the world. There is absolutely no basis for the allegations that have been made. The UN and cf course the British government are both fully aware of this. LOU McGRATH **Executive Director** Mines Advisory Group Cockermouth, Cumbria

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Sir. Philip Hensher's article "Excuse me, Ma'am, they're our pictures" (8 January) describes the Royal Collection as "of incalculable interest and value, but like an iceberg. largely unseen".

Last year just under 6 million people visited the palaces and residences in which it is displayed. To suggest the whole lot should be in one of the national museums or galleries – and you would still have to pay an admission charge - would mean stripping out all the major works of art from Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, Holyroodhouse. Hampton Court Palace, the Tower of London, Kew Palace, Osborne House and Sandringham. I do not think this would be acceptable to the millions of people from all over the United Kingdom and abroad who visit these palaces and residences to see the Royal Collection in situ.

All the collections of national significance in this country receive substantial taxpayers' money; the Royal Collection receives none and relies for its upkeep solely on the revenue generated from admission charges to the various palaces and residences. Finally, may I say that the Queen does not own the Royal Collection personally but as sovereign, and as such holds the collection in trust for her successors and the nation: DICKIE ARBITER Assistant Press Secretary to The Queen Buckingham Palace

Arms to Africa

Sir: Tony Blair is currently visiting South Africa with a view to establishing relations with president-in-waiting Thabo Mbeki. He is also there to secure UK defence contracts. South Africans are outraged by their government's intention to spend billions on weapons purchases, including £700m on British Aerospace/Saab Gripen fighters at £700m and possibly another £300m on BAe Hawks.

As one South African economist, Terry Crawford-Browne, has put it: "People cannot eat warships, warplanes or tanks. Issues of human security relating to people-access to health services, clean water, jobs etc. must take priority over the traditional notions of military security. Fortunately there is no military threat to South Africa. Yet the very real threat to security by poverty undermines our still fragile transition to democracy."

Talk of industrial participation benefits has been described as a smoke screen. Expenditure could be better used in education, housing and health.

Once again the short-term interests of UK arms export companies are placed above social, economic and humanitarian concerns and once again Tony Blair leaves his government open to the suggestion that policy is manipulated by the arms exporters. RACHEL HARFORD Joint Co-ordinator Campaign Against Arms

Trade London N4

Girl of the year

Sir: Although I cannot claim to have made a count of girls' names in the year's headlines (Miles Kington, 5 January), I have a strong impression that the top girl's name of 1998 was Prudence. DAVID WALLACE Hove, East Sussex

IN BRIEF

agree on whether book spine titles should face left or right? Older hardback books were sensibly lettered across the spine so they could be read easily when the books were on shelves, but no longer. If writing has to be along the spine, it seems more logical for the base of the letters to be on the left (back) side, so that books stacked on their sides are ready to read when removed from the stack.

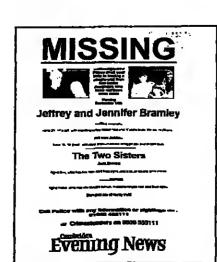
Sir: Perhaps the reason the Bishop of St Albans suggested that young people might think the words "as if" in the Churches Advertising Network poster referred to a pop group ("The reverend revolutionaries". 7 January) is that As If is, in fact, an up and coming Christian band, quite well known to young people who listen to Christian AILSAM WALKER

Sevenoaks, Kent

Sir: I hope Hugh Rogers' friends have noted that he is not sending millennium cards on 1 January 2000 (letter, 6 January) and has thereby counted himself ont of party invitations. Away with such pedantry! Life is for living, and is fragile enough without allowing mathematical fundamentalists to intimidate us out of our generally accepted usages. E TURNBULL Gosforth, Northumberland

Sir: A measure of hypocrisy may on occasion perhaps be necessary to show that one believes in high standards of behaviour, even if it is difficult sometimes to live up to them.

Even so, it rather sticks in the throat to see members of the US Senate taking a solemn oath "to do impartial justice", when this could hardly be further from the intention of many. MICHAEL J EGAN Warrington, Greater Manchester



An appeal for the Bramleys' return ing maybe they will come back tomorrow."

Love on the run

Continued from page 1 Like the police, Mr Bodle thinks it is possible that the Bramleys are being helped, though definitely not by a family member: And he agrees that public sympathy may be hampering the police investigation. He has been told that even former police officers have said they would not arrest the Bramleys, but would give them money to

help them on their way. However, he says, the only real solution is for the Bramleys and the children to return home. The situation is putting them and their extended family under great stress. "Every night you go to bed think-

Thick curtains are closed over the front windows of the Bramleys' home on the Maltings, a private estate of modest houses crammed too closely together. Only a few neighbours were aware of the Bramleys' desperate battle with social services. As one puts it, all they saw was two lively little girls with apparently devoted parents.

DRBELL

Many locals share the public's ambivalence about the Bramleys' "crime". One woman thought Jade and Hannah were children from a previous marriage, until she heard them calling Jenny and Jeff Mummy and Daddy. Though friendly, the Bramleys were private; most neighbours be in their best interests? But Cambridge found out that they were fostering only after social services points out that its decision

their disappearance. She saw nothing to suggest that the couple lacked parenting skills. "We don't know all the facts," she says. "But the girls always looked happy and well looked after." And she adds: "What the Bramleys have done, well, it's not like a real crime, is it?"

One lawyer who specialises in child care cases wonders what will happen if the Bramleys succeed in staying on the run for a year, or even two. If the children are well and happy, and have become even more attached to their "unsuitable" foster parents. will the courts still consider separation to

to remove the children was endorsed by the courts, and it will defend that stance. The children's current lifestyle, a spokes-man says, can only be doing them harm. If Jeff and Jenny are as logical as Daye

Bodle says, they have probably concluded that eventually they will have to come home and hand the children over. Perhaps in their distress they are spinning out one final farnily holiday (with steam train trips and other treats), clinging bopelessly to moments, and children, they cannot keep. An act of e or selfishness? Probably a bit of both.

Mr Bodle asks the Bramleys to call the National Missing Persons helpline, 0500 700 700



The Rev Jack Cooper, who saw them

VD REVIEW

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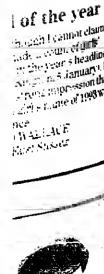
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The Government's risky gap between rhetoric and reality

THE "LINE in the sand" is one of the great malapropisms of contemporary British politics. John Major was forever trying to "draw a line under" his troubles only to have another lorry-load of ordure tipped over him. But he and his spinners sometimes got their Gulf war metaphors confused and said he was drawing a line in the sand - which hardly gave the intended impression of finality.

This week Tony Blair drew his line - on a beach in the Seychelles. A resolute article in yesterday's Independent, a no-nonsense speech in South Africa, and a tale of everyday muscular heroism rescuing a Danish holiday-maker from the treacherous currents, were designed to present the Prime Minister in his full "strong leader" regalia. Heavy casualties have been sustained, but the names of Mandelson, Robinson and Whelao have been inscribed on a wooden panel headed "They gave their all for New Labour", and the strong leader carries on, sadder but undaunted.

The tone is now like a comic-strip Churchill: "There are bound to be setbacks. We will face them, determinedly. There are bound to be attacks. We will respond to them, robustly." And there was one wonderfully double-edged sentence in yesterday's article: "We will continue to be for the future, not for the past." The trouble is that the past ain't what it used to be: the past used to mean the Conservatives and Old Labour, now New Labour has a past as well, and Mr Blair wants to distance himself from the unhappy bits of it, and especially the events of the past three weeks.

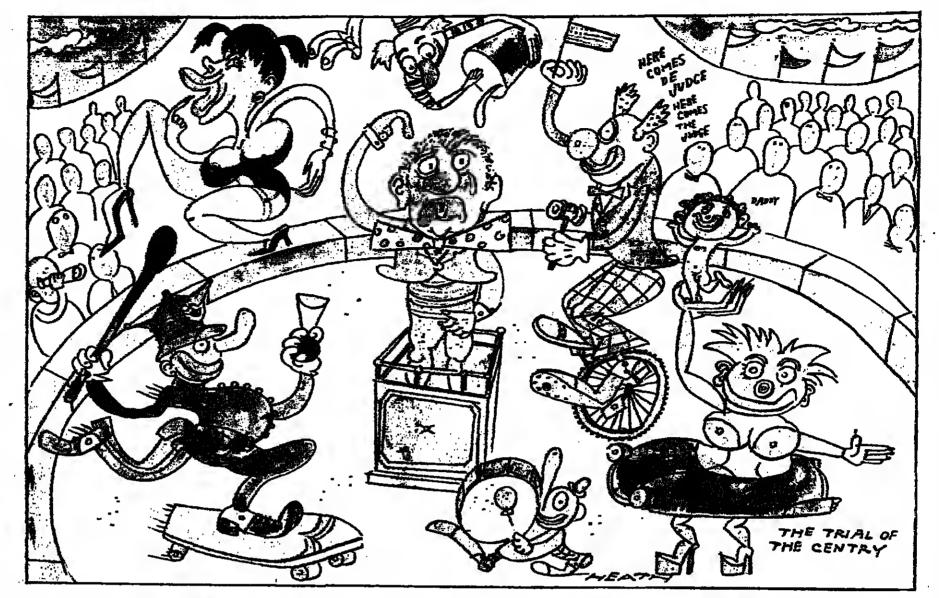
The Affair of Mr Mandelson's Mortgage cannot be quite so easily pushed into the dusty filing cabinet marked "Historical Interest Only", despite the Britannia huilding society's convenient absolution of the former Trade and Industry Secretary yesterday. For one thing, Mr Mandelson, in his attempt to put the affair bebind him, said he wanted to get on with "rebuilding my political career".

It would be rash to predict Mr Mandelson's early return to the Cabinet, but it seems unlikely that Mr Blair will not find some use for his undoubted skills. Which means that questions about his conduct, and about his understanding of the central concept in public prohity, the appearance of a conflict of interest, continue to be pertinent

The damage done to the Government depends on the size of the gap between rhetoric and reality: they are the anode and the cathode and, when the electricity of public opinion is passed through them, the wider the gap the bigger the spark and the more destructive the

Mr Blair promised that his Government would be different, and he promised that things would be better. It may be unfair to discern no difference between Labour and its Tory predecessors, but the change has not been big enough or "radical" enough to justify New Labour's rhetoric.

Let ns retain a sense of perspective. "Labour lead slumps to 23 points" is hardly the kind of headline which warns Mr Blair of impending meltdown. But The Independent's soundings among our panel of former Tory swing voters in Redditch, which we report today, suggest that the early cracks may run deep.



The Prime Minister yesterday pledged to concentrate on the "big picture" rather than scandal and gossip, hut it is precisely in the areas of education and bealth that "Mondeo man and woman" feel most let down. On the National Health Service, the Government has been on the defensive from the day after the last election, when it emerged that its apparently modest aim of cutting waiting-lists below the level it had inherited would be difficult and expensive to meet. To be sure, the flu outbreak is being used as a lever by doctors in advance of the pay review - there is no reason, for example, to care whether refrigerated lorries have to be used briefly as temporary mortuaries.

But the same has happened in education, where an apparently modest "early" promise to cut infant class sizes will probably not be fulfilled in time for the next election. The amount of change visible to parents collecting their children from school, therefore, fails to match up to the impression that "smaller class sizes" would be the first step to educational nirvana.

All this could add to the impression of a government at the mercy of events, trailing behind Europe and powerless to influence the economy.

There has long been a contradiction between the Prime Minister's New Jerusalem style and his "Rome Wasn't Built in a Day" mode. If Mr Blair really wants to draw a line under the explosions of the past few weeks - and the collateral damage caused - then he needs to drop Jerusalem and adjust his rhetoric to what can realistically be delivered.

The Tories must feminise their party

GETTING MORE women into Parliament could be the Conservative Party's only hope. After all, as the old feminist slogan bad it, they could hardly make a worse job of it than the men, could they? There are only 14 women Tory MPs, and they include all the party's best performers: Ann Widdecombe, Theresa May, Angela Browning, Gillian Shephard and Teresa Gorman. So somebody needs to find the shrewd Ffion Jenkins a byelection to fight, urgently. Then she and Miss Widdecombe can fight a leadership contest.

The problem is, bow to do it? The Labour Party did it the best way, which was to go for a strong dose of positive discrimination and have it struck down by the courts after large numbers of women had been selected. That meant that the party did not – in the end – bave to defend the indefensible, namely the exclusion of men on the grounds of their sex, and yet ended up with the right outcome in the form of 101 female MPs.

The fact that a quarter of Labour's MPs are women. however, has had disappointingly little effect on the maledominated and family-unfriendly House of Commons. True, the Labour benches and even the Cabinet look as though they are inhabited by relatively normal people, while the Tory side and the Shadow Cabinet look like the boys and prefects of a single-sex school - albeit with a

few token girls baving been allowed into the sixth form. But the modernisation of Westminster's archaic working practices is said to have been blocked - by the House's first woman Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, who has shown all Margaret Thatcher's lack of sympathy towards women who have not yet made it to the top.

That should not put the Tories off their quest to feminise their party from top to bottom. Of course, they cannot go down Labour's women-only shortlist route. So far, though, all that they have proposed in order to present themselves as modern, fresb and representative is a "target" of 250 women candidates at the next election.

We should be a little more convinced of the Conservatives' sincerity if the person in charge of establishing this feminist base camp on the slopes of their electoral Everest were someone other than Roger Freeman, the Brylcreemed former minister whose main achievement is being mistaken for Cecil Parkinson.

The modern mail

ONCE UPON a time, e-mail was geeky, adolescent and unconvincing, with all its funny conventions, such as using ":)" to denote smiling and "lol" for "laugh out loud". But it is taking off, as we report today, with the British the biggest e-mailers of Europe. It has found its niche. an affectionate form in between the letter and the phone call, enabling people to keep in touch at times that suit the rhythms of modern life. Welcome to the e-world.

We must pardon Private Daly, the last man shot for mutiny

MOST OF you will never have heard of I remember a neighbour in Dublin Private James Joseph Dalv. There is oo immediate reason why you should. A soldier dead for 76 years, he is just one of the British soldiers who have been shot and killed ans century. He is a tiny footnote in British imperial history, of interest to a small group of mil-itary historians. But for me his life and death illustrate a much bigger story, one that goes to the heart of a very complicated relationship. But I will come to all that later. First

the simple facts of James Daly's life: a pulive of County Westmeath, in what was then British-ruled Ireland, Daly was a private in the Connaught Rangers, a regiment that has served in the British army since the 1700s. Joining the British army for the proverbial "shilling a day" was the escape route from poverty for tens of thousands of Irishmen down the years. They fought in every corner of the empire, subduing the natives and imposing the Pax Britannica.

The courage of the Irishmen who tought for britain in the First and Second World Wars was largely ignored at home. It didn't fit with the prevailing nationalist view of the past. Indeed it took until last November's Remembrance Services before we saw the Queen and the Irish President, Mary McAleese, pay tribute to their memory at Messines Ridge. It was, we were told, an occasion in which the Irish dead were honoured by the people of Ireland. Three-quarters of a century on, we finally reach a point where the Irish state feels able to commemorate Irishmen who had died

fighting for Britain. convenient amnesia about Irishmen was attending a football match when fighting on the side of the old enemy. he was held up and searched by

once telling me how her father, who had served at the Somme, had been shunned by local nationalists when he came home from the war. Others became targets and were suct by the IRA. But the simple fact is that the British shilling was all that saved thousands of families from starvation in the tenements of Dublin and the poverty-stricken lands west of the river Shannon. Tradition also had a big role to play. My neighbours' grand-father had served in the Boer war: she still seem a brush he used for cleaning his uniform. In fact the tradition of southern Irishmen serving in British regiments continues to this day, though not anywhere like on the same scale as before independence.

But back to Private Daly. At the end of June 1920, Daly and the rest of his battalion were stationed at Juliundur, near Amritsar, in British India. The infamous massacre by British troops had taken place only a short time before. The area was seething with nat-bunalist anger, and the soldiers of the Connaught Rangers were an impor-tent part of the British garrison. There is little indication of what Daly and his colleagues thought about the massacre. But it would appear they were more concerned with events at home in Ireland. The previous year IRA men had ambushed a group of policemen at Soloheadbeg in County Tipperary: The killings signalled the start of a new,

bitter phase in the Irish Troubles. Within a few months the IRA was launching ambushes on British troops and Irish policemen across the country. It is said that one of the Connaught We have always suffered from a Rangers, home on holidays from India,



FERGAL KEANE

To fight or to run, to follow orders or refuse - sooner or later most troops in battle confront these issues

British troops. The incident shocked him. A British soldier being searched by British soldiers? What he saw was a country that was fast hecoming an armed camp, where everybody was expected to take a side. Being a British soldier made him a target for the IRA, yet the British troops in Ireland regarded him as one of the enemy.

As the conflict escalated reports of atrocities by British forces began to reach the Connaught Rangers camp at Jullundur. The precise spark for what happened next is still debated by historians. Some suggest it was a series of attacks by the irregular British forces, known as Black and Tans, which infuriated Daly and his friends. Others believe it was a massacre by regular troops in Dublin which precipitated the crisis. At this point let me add a personal note: if anybody has further information on the mutiny, anything that illuminates the facts or away to the notorious prison at Luck-respondent

get in touch with me.

Whatever the exact incident, Pri-

vate Daly and up to 150 other men staged a mutiny. It appears to have neen a fairly badiy organised adale. beginning at Jullundur, then spreading to the mountains. A green flag was raised and the mutineers named their HQ "Liberty Hall", after the headquarters of James Connolly's Irish Citizen Army that rebelled against the British in 1916. The army chaplain, Father Baker, was the first officer to recognize the inherent desirer in the mutiny: should it succeed the local Indian population would surely be emboldened to strike out at the British. This would give the British a powerful reason to deal ruthlessly with the mutineers. The priest moved quickly to try and defuse the situation. He persuaded Daly and the others to hand in their weapons on the promise that all would be forgotten about.

For a while this appeared to work. But tensions rose again. Some say Daly was pressurised by his colleagues, it at ful that without weapons they were now at the mercy of the officers. Another theory is that the promise to "forget about everything" had been broken by the officers. Daly and about 40 men drew bayonets and advanced on the arsenal where the weapons were stored. On the way they were confronted by British officers who opened fire. Three men were hit. Two died quickly from their wounds, another died later in hospital from fever. At least two of the dead may have been simply returning from their mess when they wandered accidentally into the line of fire. But the gunfire ended the mutiny. Daly and his

after being court-martialled, that Private James Joseph Daly, accused of being the ring-leader, was led out for execution by firing squad the last man in the Bridsh army to be shot for mutiny. Eighteen others were given the death penalty but had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment. Two years later they were freed when an independent Irish state was declared.

It is in the nature of war to throw up impossible choices. The death of cormality that attends the outbreak of war project men and women into a moral quagmire. To kill or not to kill, to fight or to run, to follow orders or refuse... sooner or later most troops in battle confront these issues. And yet military doctrine, of necessity, demands absolute obedience. That is how armies work. Soldiers are trained to react instinctively to the shouted command. When mutinies happen, they are for the most part the result of soldiers' anger, poor leadership, bad conditions and heavy losses. What happened with Private Day was different. His choice, and that of the men who supported him, went to the core of his identity. An Irishman in a British uniform, he was still a British citizen. In legal terms he owed his loyalty to the king. But his heart told him otherwise. It is a choice few sol-

diers ever have to make. Legally he was wrong. In human terms, though, can we condemn him? I don't believe we should. He and the other mutineers may be a footnote in history. There is no pressure from any source to reappraise the mutiny. But I think that it's high time the Army did. It is time to pardon Private Daly.

followers surrendered and were led Fergal Kenne is a BBC special cor-



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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Bill Clinton on trial • Charlie Whelan's resignation • NHS in crisis • Trading in the euro • A royal marriage

BILL CLINTON ON TRIAL

US opinion about the procedures that the Senate should employ in trying the impeachment of the President

THE NEW YORK TIMES

AFTER THE strife in the House, the opening of the Senate trial of President Clinton looked reassuringly decorous. Senator Strom Thurmond, who was born only 34 years after Andrew Johnson's impeachment, swore in the big, calm-looking Chief Justice, William Rehnquist. The leaders' decision to tamp down party feuding and call a bipartisan caucus of all senators for this morning brought a surprisingly promising end to a grimly historic day that few expected to see. It is too early to declare that this marks the emergence of a rational statesmanship that has been missing in the House and at the White House. But the Senate has a momentous opportunity today to adopt rules that would shorten the trial, avoid months of redundant testimony and allow passage of a censure that the public and the evidence demand.

DALLAS MORNING **NEWS**

THIS TRIAL will be one of the most monumental tests the US Senate has ever faced. Unfortunately. Americans may not get to see the full deliberations as senators reach their verdict about President Clinton's fate. Without on-the-scene cameras, the public will be left with only "sound bites" provided after the fact for the news shows, hardly befitting the complexity of the moment. The final deliberations must remain open to the public. This rare moment should prove a valuable civics lesson for the nation on both the Constitution and the importance of character in government.

THE WASHINGTON Post

THE HOUSE, in our opinion, erred in its decision to impeach Mr. Clinton. But an impeachment by the House demands of the Senate a proceeding of sufficient rigor to satisfy the more moderate of Mr. Clinton's ultimately be acquitted - that the Senate, at the least, did not shirk its Finicle)

obligation to face up to his odious conduct. For this reason, House managers should be given an opportunity to present senators with the case against Mr. Clinton in a manner that does not trivialize his behavior by trivializing its pres-

As long as a majority of senators believe that additional testimony is necessary in order to inform their final votes, it seems reasonable to permit whatever witnesses the House wishes to call. The Senate can and should end the trial as soon as a majority of senators become convinced that hearing from more witnesses will not aid them in their determinations of how to vote.

THE ARKANSAS **DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE**

AS BILL Clinton approaches the zenith/nadir of his political career, all eyes should be glued on the opening of his trial in the Senate of the United States, its solemn ceremonies and once-in-a-century rituals, and the general national reaction is: Ho hum.

Despite the usual ponderous music and basso profundo voices of the announcers and commentators. the whole scene has all the solemnity of picking a number in the take-out line. The stage may be imposing, but somehow the central character has managed to shrink everything down to his own superficial dimension - the Capitol, the Constitution, the issues, the historlcal background, even the lies. The setting seems out of scale - too grand for the mediocre president

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

IMPARTIAL JUSTICE? Hmmm. That's what 100 US senators have just sworn to pursue in the trial of Bill Clinton.

What I want to know is this: Will these five-score men and women abide by their pledge, or have they political foes - should the president ident they're trying has done - to charges of lying under oath. (David

Clean up this shambles

NEW STATESMAN

CHARLIE WHELAN'S departure, along with that of Geoffrey Robinson, will grieve Gordon Brown as much as Peter Mandelson's loss will grieve Tony Blair. Although Mandelson, an elected MP and a Cabinet minister, was much the more influential figure, Whelan, too, had been at the centre of New Labour since its creation. There is a palpable sense of relief among ministers that both Mandelson and Whelan have left the heart of government. But before they toast the purge, they should recall one significant point: most newspapers are essentially hostile to this government. One of the myths about New Labour is that all journalists are under its spell. Yet I can remember countless occasions when Mandelson and Whelan, working separately, prevented damaging stories from taking off or managed to get front pages helpful to the Government. The mantle of the spin doctor now falls to Alastair Campbell alone. (Steve Richards)

DAILY RECORD

CHARLIE WHELAN knew he had to go. But the Government is not, as the Tories claim, falling apart at the seams. However, when he returns from South Africa, Mr Blair must clean up the shambles.

Whelan was a star of the election campaign, successfully spinning Gordon Brown's campaign to reassure the betteroff voters that he could be trusted not to raise their taxes.

He was a doggedly loyal henchman and a first-class communicator of complicated politics. However, Brown is still too powerful for his personal position to be seriously undermined.

Now that two of the prime spin doctors and in fighters have gone, New Labour should make its New Start. A truce has to be enforced on the vendettas that divert attention from the Government's achievements. The Cabinet could actually give the impression of being a team.

THE EXPRESS



CHARLIE WHELAN'S RESIGNATION

Verdicts on the resignation of Gordon Brown's press secretary and the consequences to New Labour

the collapse of the last Conservative gov- certainly includes advisers and press ernment, and what destroyed it can just aides such as Charlie Whelan.

as easily destroy Labour.

If, as the Prime Minister tells us, New Labour is "bigger than any one individual", then anyone who undermines him or the Government's integrity must go. And if that

THE TIMES

Political infighting played a major role in Mandelson and Geoffrey Robinson, it Whelan. Like the already departed bow out.

Geoffrey Robinson, Mr Whelan belongs to Mr Brown's Prince Hal days. The roistering band of lads ate pizzas, watched football and plotted a new economic strategy. albeit in the elegance of the Grosvenor House rather than the more lowly Boar's Head Tavern in Eastcheap.

That was fine for opposition, but, in office, Mr Brown has outgrown this phase. So their resignations are a liberation, a chance for Mr Brown to develop as Chancellor, to demonstrate that he has "turned away my former self" and "those that kept

me company".

The danger is that Mr Brown will, instead, see the departures of Mr Whelan and Mr Robinson as a personal defeat and a victory for his enemies. So he may turn even more upon himself. (Peter Riddell)

DAILY MAIL

THE CRASHING fall of Charlie Whelan hopefully marks the beginning of the end of the era of the spin doctor. And not hefore time. Politics could well do without this breed of hatchetmen who do little to further the smooth running of government but do much to distort the truth. Gordon Brown is unlikely to risk resurrecting the spin doctor corpse when he chooses Mr Whelan's successor. (Sir Bernard Ingham)

THE GUARDIAN

OF COURSE, Charles Alexander James Whelan, loveable or unloveable as he may be, is no innocent. He is the Vinnie Jones of spin. Relatively untroubled by professional scruples, he was a lethally effective operator on behalf of Gordon Brown, as capable of hrutal assassinations of "enemies" as he was brilliant at projecting - and protecting - his friends. But, in the end, he made too many enemies.

He was perceived, rightly or wrongly, as someone who imported the bitter tactics of Seventies sectarian union fighting into Nineties government. Though he served Mr Brown well, he knew that he was becoming a liability.

When the fate of a treasury press officer threatens to overshadow the launch

THE NHS IN CRISIS

Views on the shortages of emergency services, hospital beds and nurses this winter in the National Health Service

THE MIRROR

ALL SORTS of shortages have created the crisis in the health service. But one symbolises all that is wrong - the shortage of nurses. Years of Tory neglect and deliberate cuts undermined nurses in many ways. Labour should have known all this when it came to power yet it is only today that Health Secretary Frank Dobson reveals the crisis. He is rightly proud that more nurses are being trained yet still there will not be enough of them.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

NO HEALTH service, however richly endowed, can hope to cater for citizens who, struck by a common ailment, see no alternative but to seek a hospital hed. To some extent Mr Dobson and his political colleagues have brought this on their own heads. There is a disposition constantly to present



a cornucopia, available always to dispense limitless care to the sick for next to nothing. There is less emphasis laid on its obvious limitations and no emphasis at all on the obligation of all citizens to provide at least some primary health care within the home.

THE ECONOMIST

TO MEET the public's expectations, the NHS may have to maintain a greater amount of spare capacity to cope with a hic expectations.

rush of patients, whether due to outbreaks of infectious diseases or, say, a spate of accidents in icy weather. And the more spare capacity hospitals maintain, the less efficient they are. In the end, the, there is no "right" number of beds. It is up to ministers, NHS officials and public opinion to decide on the cost effectiveness of the NHS and its ability to cope with sudden peaks in lemand.

THE TIMES

are recruited, more hospitals built and wards opened, the public's expectations will always exceed the NHS's capacity. Anecdotes of people with flu ringing 999 typify the culture of entitlement that now exists. Mr Dobson is trying to feed this appetite by spending an extra £21bn on health over the next three years. This will merely fuel, rather than control, pub-

THE VIEWS OF THE WORLD

France

TRADING IN THE EURO

ZEITUNG Germany

THE WORLD financial markets

However many more nurses

The European press evaluate the euro after the beginning of dealing in the new currency

FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE

greet the euro with strong gains. Europe's common currency wins noticeable value compared to the dollar on the very first trading day. And the euro is celebrated with strong gains on the stock and bond markets as well. No doubt: the euro has survived its first baptism by fire.

LA LIBRE BELGIQUE

THERE IS still a lot to play for. What happens for example if one of the euro-zone countries is hit by economic difficulties which do not affect the others? The devaluation weapon is no longer open to us. So a localised shock could lead to sharp recession. Euroland does not have the American safety valve, where

workers can flee recession by moving from one state to another And federal-style budgetary transfers are almost non-existent because the EU budget is Lilliputian by comparison with the US's.

LE MONDE France

THIS IS a message to the English: the ball is now in your court! The euro is waiting for vou. The EU and its newborn money need you. You have always been highly sceptical toward the construction of Europe. You have always been dragging your feet to commit yourself to the European design. To you the EU was a "French idea", designed and run by a "continental bureaucracy" under a "German influence". Up till now you were willing to wait on the platform ... You are in the habit of waiting for European trains to start moving. Now the euro is launched, it is time for you to join it.

A ROYAL MARRIAGE

Comment following the announcement that Prince Edward is to marry Sophie Rhys-Jones

THE EXPRESS

THE MEDIA must be careful not to hound the newlyweds. Marriages face all sorts of pressures in the best of circumstances: having every action picked over by a ravenous media won't help Sophie and Edward to get off to a proper start.

THE SUN

SOPHIE'S LOOKS remind many of Diana, but there comparisons should end. Even her title could be sensitive. There could only ever be one People's Princess. The Queen must make Sophie a darling Duchess.

THE GUARDIAN

AFTER ANNE, Charles and Andrew we know better than to believe in fairy tales. Our thoughts should be reserved for Sophie Rhys-Jones. Numerous precedents suggest that it cannot be an easy thing to

marry into the Royal Family. even at such an inconsequential level. The less she and Edward make of it the better.

THE MIRROR WELL I don't know about you but I haven't slept. There I was

putting away the Christmas decorations, wondering what I'd next hang from my bare walls. when I heard the joyous news. And with teary eyes I reached for my bunting and sewing kit and got cracking. Hurrah! for Edward and Sophie, I say. (Brian Reade).

DAILY MAIL

SOPHIE COMMITTED her usual fashion faux pas yesterday. wearing another pair from her huge collection of round-toed. dumpy-heeled shoes. They look as though they belong to a woman twice her age, and do nothing for her ankles. (Trudi

MISCELLANEOUS

Stories from around the world

POTTSTOWN MERCURY UŞ OHMIGOD. THEY

Kenny... And Stan, Kyle, Cartman and Chef, too. Fans of the Comedy Central cartoon show South Park may recognize the amiliarity of that line from the show, but to police, it describes theft being investigated in Bally. The theft involves a holiday display of figures repre-senting the South Park cast from the lawn of a home at Elm and North Church streets early Monday morning. As the home-crafted South Park scene's creator Liz Hillegass said, "It was a South Park manger-type scene". The fans of the Come-

dy Central cartoon hit spent

\$350 and considerable time

making five figures from tomato cages and wire, and dressing them in appropriate clothing and masks.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

FOR PATIENTS proceeding to the United States for surgery, there is disquieting news. Surgeons are removing wrong parts of the body there, amputating the wrong foot, re-moving the wrong kidney and operating the wrong side of the brain. Patients' bodies are now being autographed to avoid what has come to be called "wrong-site surgery". Patients are writing "yes" on one leg and "no" on the other so the healthy leg is not eliminated.

RESEARCH BY KATY GUEST

QUOTES OF THE WEEK



"I am not scared of flying. I am scared of Helen Baxendale. actress (above)

14.0

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Members of the desired of the desire

silitaria series de propinsiones de propinsiones de la companie de

ing lead to a

Th. - 1.20 cp

"We have had more back-biting in the Government in the last few weeks than you could cram into an average episode of Dallas. William Hague, Tory leader

"Our Test team needs someone to stand back and not be the father figure or the friend to pat them on the back or give them a cuddle. He should give them a kick up the backside now and again. Geoffrey Boycott, former cricketer

"I don't need a witness to tell if this is a blue dress or Senator Patrick J

Leahy, Democrat "If I know sex is going to happen, I try to distract my husband with a cup of tea and a hiscuit." Unnamed pensioner

on sex on TV

"It takes two to spin. A spin doctor is only as good as his Contacts." Derek Draper former spin doctor



PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS, US



THE ECONOMIST

The mobile way to keep my son on message

HERE'S A sad story. A friend's Happy birthday. I hope you enjoy eight-year old son was asked by his granny in the Shetland Isles what he wanted for his hirthday. "A mobile," he squeaked excitedly on a erackling line to Harolds Wick on the Isle of Unst.

My friend byes in trendy Clapham where all her son's school friends apparently got mobiles for Christmas. Yes, I did say eight years old. According to the latest information from the Federation of Communication Services, the mobile communications industry body. kids are becoming as addicted to Vodaphones as their parents.

A week later the parcel arrived. It contained two coat-hangers from which six brightly coloured cardboard fishes were attached by lengths of string. "Dear Jasper.

your fish mobile. Lots of love, Granny," said the message.

Call it a cop-out, but I've finally succumbed and betrayed all my long held and widely advertised principles - I bought my 15-year-old son a pager for Christmas.

"It isn't really for him," I told the man in the mobile shop. For some reason I felt I should justify the purchase. "It's for my peace of mind. Half the time I've no idea where he is. At least this way I shall be able to track him down." "If he calls back," the man in the mobile phone shop said laconically.

"Mum, you're a star," I was informed on Christmas morning. "It's well dry (ie really nice). Much better than Jack's." Why, what's wrong with Jack's, I asked. Aren't



I've finally succumbed and betrayed all my principles - I bought my 15-year-old son a pager

they all the same? No apparently they're not. Jack's is dry tie not very nice) because it doesn't automatically beam over the latest football

known that the one I bought included those facilities. I should not have parted so readily with my 40 quid.

So far, at least, the novelty hasn't worn off. When I beam my message tup to 80 characters including spaces) the charming girl at the Zan - it's not called a pager message-answering service by the way, it's called a Zap, don't ask me why, it's just another of its well dark facilities - my son returns the call immediately.

We're slowly getting the hang of it. Instead of making him call me back, which, he complained, costs him 10p, I can give the instructions direct to the Zap girl. Thus: "James: it's me, Mum. Don't forget you've got an appointment with the doc-

results and lottery numbers. If I'd tor tomorrow at 19.15 about your verrueas.

> It's surprising how much you can get into 80 characters including spaces. When I relayed that message about the verrucas to the Zap girl I found myself apologising for its unpleasant content. "Don't worry, you'd be surprised at some of the things we have to pass on." she said. "Sometimes we have to water them down a hit." I'm glad

My son had a message the other day from his friend Buddy. What Buddy said to the Zap girl was: "Listen dickhead call Buddy soonest or he'll kick your arse." What the Zap girl relayed to James came out as "James, call Mr Buddy as soon as

possible or he'll kick your bottom." My daughter tells me that the latest wheeze in her office is to think up truly preposterous pager messages to test the reaction of the Zap girl. So far none of them has come up with anything too shock-

ing to pass on. The small Vietnamese child you ordered from South East Asia Leisure Services Inc has now arrived and is ready for collection at the cargo office in terminal three Heathrow," aroused only the mild comment that it probably wouldn't fit into 80 characters including spaces. Would it be possible to ab-

breviate the name of the company? We'd better make the most of the pager before, peer-group pressure and all that, we have to upgrade to a proper mobile. Now that really is going to be a headache, not just because of the huge choice - two-tone, leopard-skin, with or without e-mail, Internet, personal computer, word processing and fax facilities - but because of the reputed danger from radiation. I read an article recently about the gruesome effect that low-level microwaves can have on mobile phone users.

To my technically untutored ear, a low-level microwave is a small oven for heating up shepherd's pie or cooking meringues, but the article went on to describe the research into low-level microwave mobile phone radiation carried out by Professor Henry Lei at the University of Washington in Seattle on

small rodents. Headaches, disorientation, not being able to remember the Prime Minister's name. It was chilling. Give me a 2ap girl any day.

THE SATURDAY PROFILE

WILLIAM REHNQUIST, CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES

Playing poker with a nation

twisted sense of humour found their perfect example this week in the spectacle of William Hubbs Rehnquist being sworn in to preside as an "impartial" judge over the impeachment trial of President Clinton.

The least of it is that Rehnquist, a highly ideological conservative, was sworn to judicial impartiality by the presiding officer and oldest member of the Senate, Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, a man so far to the Right that 51 years ago he ran for President as a "Dixiecrat" in protest against the very modest moves the Democratic party (to which Thurmond theo belonged) had made in the direction of conceding civil rights to black Americans.

Another irony lies in the fact that Rehnquist, as an amateur historian, published a book in 1992, Grand Inquests, about the two previous most important impeachment trials in American history: those of Chief Justice Samuel Chase in 1813, and of President Andrew Johnson in 1868. The book is being republished, and has already reached the bestseller lists, but Rehnquist has decided not to update it for fear of giving away his opinion on matters that could come up in the Clinton trial.

That has not stopped Washington journalists rushing to see if they can glean any hints from it about how Rehnquist will conduct the trial. The failure of bipartisan attempts to cut the trial process short means that Rehnquist is now hound to have considerable influence over the proceedings. For the senators, not normally short of a word or several hundred on most subjects, will be largely silenced in the impeachment trial. They will be taking part as jurors, and however much they may take part in offstage manoeuvring, in the trial itself they will be limited to submitting questions in writing through the Chief Justice.

The constitution prescribes that the President can only be found guilty an an impeachment by a two-thirds majority, that is, by 67 senators, which is 12 more than the present Republican majority of 55. Twenty six rules have been handed down to guide the senators. But once the trial starts, they will be entering largely uncharted waters, so the Chief Justice's role will certainly be influential and could be decisive.

That is why the irony is so profound. For President Clinton is a relatively centrist Democrat, far from an extreme liberal by objective measures. But to the conservative Republicans who impeached him in the House of Representatives, and even more to the "movement conservatives", the Religious Right, the financial backers and ideological journalists who egg them on, Clinton is objectionable as a liberal.

Privately, Chief Justice Rehnquist certainly shares their opinion. He is an unashamed ideological conservative. He was sent to the Supreme Court 27 years ago as such by President Nixon, as part of a calculated plan on Nixon's part to end liberal domination of the Court. His voting

THOSE WHO contend that history has a and his opinions as first a justice, then chief justice, have been reliably conservative. Indeed, while his impartiality should not be impugned, on a number of occasions he has even intervened judicially in the preliminaries of the President's investigation in ways that helped to bring Clinton before the bar of impeachment.

By the end of the 1960s, the Republicans, and conservatives generally, were furious at what they saw as the activist liberal

LIFE STORY

Born: Milwaukee, Wisconsln. 1 Octnber, 1924. Origins: Swedish parents. Father a whnlesale paper salesman Married: Natalie Cornell (d 1991) Children: James, Janet, Nancy Religion: Lutheran

Military service: Sergeant, Army Air Caros 1943-46 Law career: Assistant Attorney General, 1969. Supreme Court Justice 1972. Chief Justice 1986.

Passion: Gilbert and Sullivan. His gown (right) is modelled on that of the lecherous Chief Justice in lolanthe.

Plays: Croquet and poker On the last impeachment (1865): Its operation "was less like that of a grand jury than like that of the manager of a political candidate's campaign looking into what charges might be made against a political opponnent"

judgements of the "Warren Court" - the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren. Those decisions included the famous declaration, in the Brown case in 1954, that racially segregated education was unconstitutional. But there were other decisions - banning prayer in schools, protecting the rights of criminal suspects against the police, endorsing affirmative action and mandating school busing in the interests of racial equality - that outraged conservatives scarcely less than Brown. President Nixon set out to destroy

the liberal majority on the Supreme Court. One of the longest-acting powers of a President lies in his ability to change the personnel, and so in the end the politics, of the Court. He can appoint justices, though they must then be confirmed by the

perfunctory, but increasingly bitter and political in recent years, in part because of the way the process was politicised by Richard Nixon, Nixon had bad luck with his first nominations, one of whom turned out to belong to an all-white country club and the other to be spectacularly mediocre giving rise to the immortal defense that "mediocre people had a right to he represented on the Supreme Court, too). But he still had time to put three more conservatives on the Court before he resigned to forestall his own impeachment. One of them was William Rehnquist, who had been an assistant attorney general in Nixon's own Department of Justice before Nixon appointed him to the Court in 1972.

He was, had always been and has remained an extreme conservative. One research group found that he had been consistently the most conservative justice on the Court, taking the conservative position (sometimes, admittedly, hard to define) in 85 per cent of cases.

Rehnquist grew up in Wisconsin, in the suburban, white middle-class world of Mil waukee, famous for its beer, German origins and northern European Protestant traditions. His parent were Swedish. Lutheran and of that mid-Western husiness conservatism that bas given so much support to Ross Perot. Following High School he pursued an Ivy League education, first in political sciences at Stanford University and then to the traditionally liberal Harvard Law School, where he graudated top of his class. He then moved to Arizona, where they tend to resent the Federal government as if it were a colonial power, and practised law in Phoenix. There he became a friend and adviser of Senator Barry Goldwater, who ran for President as a conservative Republican candidate in 1964 and got trounced by Lyndon Johnson.

Rehnquist, even liberals agree, is unstuffy and a pleasant enough man personally. Tall and now stooped, he hikes his loafers up on the table like a regular Western fellow, and used to wear his bair long, at least by the standards of judges. He has written, though not published, a detective novel, and be is fond of Gilbert & Sullivan; be will even preside over the impeachment in a gown be designed for himself (with gold bands to look like one be saw worn by the Lord Chancellor in a production of Iolanthe). He is also a keen amateur painter and a poker player.

He is, however, an unashamedly ideological judge and, moreover, that unusual animal, a pro-government conservative. The catch is that the government he favours is the state government, as opposed to the federal government of the United States. In this he is squarely in the tradition of southern conservatives who have always defended states' rights against Washington.

Nor is his conservatism just a matter of abstract constitutional principles. As one Senate, after hearings, once fairly writer put it, he invariably sides "with the



prosecution in criminal cases, with husiness in anti-trust cases, with employers in labour cases, and with the government in (freedom of) speech cases

Paul Martin, a student of the Supreme Court at Oxford University, points out that Rehnquist has consistently voted for extending the death penalty, most recently even to mentally retarded killers and murderers who were juveniles when they killed. (Bill Clinton, as governor of Arkansas, signed the death warrant of a mentally retarded murderer.) He has also steadily opposed abortion. But of all the positions he has taken, the one that has probably caused him most trouble was one he maintains was not his own.

A lot of the work of Supreme Court justices is done by "clerks", bright young lawyers, most of them graduates of elite law schools. In the 1950s Rehnquist, fresh out of Harvard Law School, clerked for Justice Robert Jackson, a New Dealer who was the chief US prosecutor at Nuremberg. Rehnquist wrote a memo arguing that the plaintiffs in the school desegregation cases (Brown and others associated with it) ought to fail because there was nothing unconstitutional about education that was "separate hut equal": precisely the point the Warren Court rejected.

When Rehnquist was elevated by

President Reagan from within the ranks of the Supreme Court judges as Chief Justice in 1986, the Democrats brought this up against him. Rehnquist insisted be was setting forth Justice Jackson's opinion, not his own. Others have maintained, plausibly, that whether or not it was Jackson's opinion tit was, after all, settled law at the time that segregation was legal, it was certainly Rehnquist's opinion at the time. The result was that the bearings beld by the Senate on his appointment as chief justice, previously gentlemanly if not perfunctory, turned into a fierce ideological battle. In the end, Rehnquist was approved, but with the greatest number of votes against in history: 33 of the 98 senators voting voted against. The rough ride liberal senators gave to Nixon's solicitor-general, Robert Bork, whose nomination was withdrawn, bas left a lasting scar on conservatives.

Not much has been made of it yet, but Rehnquist has not managed entirely to keep himself out of the political manoeuvring leading up to Clinton's impeachment. Originally, Janet Reno, the President's attorney-general, under a statute that has since been repealed by Congress, appointed Robert Fiske to be the independent counsel, as the prosecutor is known, to investigate the President's alleged involvement in the Whitewater land project.

Conservative Republicans in Congress. however, led by Senator Lauch Fairchild of North Carolina, wrote a letter to the Court complaining that Mr Fiske had not been tough enough, and it was Chief Justice Rehnquist who appointed the special three-man panel which chose Kenneth Starr as the independent counsel. The Washington Post has reported that the Court's rulings under Rehnquist have worked against President Clinton and ultimately favoured independent counsel [special prosecutor] Kenneth Starr".

Rehnquist's ability as a lawyer and as a judge is unquestioned. He is a tight manager who has insisted that the justices' conferences, which once rambled on for days, are all over by lunchtime. He has also heen known to cut counsels off in midsyllable if they exceeded the time he had allotted them for argument. He has a prodigious memory for the law, and is one of the fastest writers of opinions on the

Court in recent history.

It is not bis professional impartiality as a judge but his instincts that are in question. He has not hidden that they are those of a committed conservative ideologue. If the two personae should come into conflict in the cut and thrust of the trial, it will not go well for the President.

THE INDEPENDENT does not intend to elevate the minor farceur Leslie Nielsen to hero status, surely? To which the answer is: "Yes, we do, and don't call us Shirley:"

That stupid pun is probably what we remember best from the 1980 film Airplane! in which Nielsen played the doctor giving completely useless moral support to a stewardess and a passenger who are trying to land a plane after the crew has been

struck down by food poisoning. Airplane' was Nielsen's first comedy film, a glorious hour and a half in which the tall, distinguished-look ing leading man, veteran of around 50 movies and an astonishing 1,500 TV films, as good as demolished his previous career and started all over again, heroically, at the age of 54.

To understand how successful Nielsen was in subverting his former screen image, try watching one of his earlier films, such as Forbidden Planet, with a straight face. In this 1956 film, Nielsen's Commander John J Adams is interplanetary corporate man - a typical repre sentative of buttoned-down but-

toned-up McCarthyite America.

After a lifetime of movies like Forbidden Planet, casting Nielsen in Airplane! was a stroke of genius, by the directors David Zucker, Jim Abrahams, and Jerry Zucker, ranking alongside that exclamation mark. The actor, though, deserves the credit for understanding exactly what the part needed and providing it in spades, even though it meant

ACCIDENTAL HEROES OF THE **20TH CENTURY**

22: LESLIE NIELSEN, COMIC ACTOR

Nielsen played it absolutely straight, maintaining a look of utter conviction and sincerity - like a TV evangelist or minor politician - while

talking absolute nonsense. deadpan performance, together with his trademark middle-America wardrobe of slacks and golf shoes, make him as distinctive a feature of he would never make another the comic landscape of the past two Chaplin "post-humorously".

serious movie as long as he lived. decades as Chaplin's tramp was 70 years ago. How long before art-Lieutenant Frank Drebin retrospectives?

Nielsen, of course, would find Nielsen's gift for this kind of the concept ludicrous. In his spurious 1993 autobiography The Naked Truth, he claims to have received the "Nobel Prize for Good Acting", three years after it was given to Charlie

He says in his book that he decided to become an actor when, as a five-year-old, he went with his hrothers to see the original Frankenstein.

"I learnt many of life's most important lessons from those Saturday morning movies," writes Nielsen.

"Never get involved in a showdown with a cowboy wearing a white hat Never stand up on a battlefield bouse cinemas programme and say loudly, 'It's over. We won. Those cowards have gone.' And never trust a character whose head has to be bolted on."

> One of those brothers went on to become deputy prime minister of Canada, according to Nielsen. But unlike much in the book - Nielsen's relatiooship with Elizabeth Taylor, how he discovered Steven Spielberg

photographing weddings and bar mitzvahs - this turns out to be true. "My brother Eric," writes Nielsen, was the big disappointment in the family. He was so smart, so talented. he had so much to give to the world, but instead he became a politician."

Not that Nielsen is without ideals of his own. He's a student and admirer of the famous liberal lawyer Clarence Darrow (defender of the Texan schoolmaster who taught evolution) whom he's been portraying in a one-man show in Los Angeles.

But Nielsen tends not to talk too much about that if he can help it, preferring instead to don his slacks and add sweetly and harmlessly to the gaiety of nations. In which there is a kind of heroism, surely.



END REVIEW at 9 January 1999

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HOTES OF THE WEEK



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THE WEEKLY MUSE

BY MARTIN NEWELL



New Year, new you? It isn't quite. The waistband feeis a tad too tight. The bead is fugged, the wallet's thin And resolutions clog the bin. That's when the meter men appear With taxman bringing up the rear. Best thing to do is stay in bed And send your clone to work instead.

It's chaos on the trading floor... A little bundle at the door Of kisses, curses, custard pies -Midst mingled aahs and skeptic sighs The bahy euro's trundled in While Britain grumbles at the din.

A Saxon chieftain and his horse Lay undisturbed in chalky ground For fourteen bundred years or so And slept the centuries away. Much later, over fens and farms Around the Suffolk air force base, Another German warrior flew Then fell to earth and lost the day. "Well met," the Saxon soldier said. "We've changed a hit since oxen carts But not so fast you'd notice it. They take their time around these parts Where warriors younger now than you Still gird themselves for battle zones. Lie down, young flier. The day may come When men will marvel at your bones."

Impeachment. It's a curious word, Most often found with President Confusing what he said he meant When evidence is later heard. I used to think, some years ago Impeachment meant "to place in peach, Pushed into pulp to fill a hreech". It doesn't. (Bet he'd like it though.)

And we who have survived the flu Without a call to 999

Have got some stern research to do Regarding health claims made for wine. They say it perks the brain-cells up. How interesting: now where's my cup?

So it's official: in-flight food Is gastronomic guck from hell, Congealed, fibrous, leathery, Synthetic, overcooked as well. Does Egon Ronay tell the truth? Do Virgin trains run out of diesel? They do - like I run out of space. Now pop next door and read The Weasel.

THE WEASEL

Having digested Proust, I tucked into a madeleine. The cake was most toothsome, but produced little in the way of time travel

JUST FOR once, I have completed my Christmas reading project. Usually, this annual endeavour gets bogged down after the first chapter or so. Bleak House got no further than the foundations and I have scant hope of ever completing Great Expectations. But this year I pulled off the big one. I lapped up A la Recherche du Temps Perdu in a single sitting. Of course (Weasel gives casual shrug), I read it in French. Somehow, even the finest translations miss the subtle mances of le maître, don't you agree? Admittedly, it was only the first two sections of Proust's masterpiece. OK, maybe I didn't read every word. However, I can say hand on heart that I looked at every single picture.

Sorry, didn't I mention that it was the new comic-strip version of A la Recherche (Delcourt, £10.95) that I breezed through? Though Stephane Heuet's graphic adaptation prompted a few Gallic gripes (Le Figaro called it "catastrophic", "blasphemous" and prodigiously inane"), it was well received by the French public, with the first edition of 12,000 copies selling out in three weeks. In the London Review of Books, the Proust scholar Michael Wood has praised the "moments of genuine lyricism" and "diligent textual fidelity" of Heuet's version. However, amid the prodigiously wordy captions and bulbous speech bubbles, there appears to be one significant addition. No one in the original novel ever said Tiens! une madeleine?"

This ejaculation emerges from the sad-eyed narrator, who bears a strong resemblance to Marcel P. himself. By

munching the bun, he is transported back to his childhood in the provincial town of Combray. In order to appreciate the magical properties of this confection, I prodded Mrs Weasel into baking a batch of madeleines. After I hrushed aside her trifling objections (my next expense claim will include "one madeleine tin: £6.95"), madame set to work. An hour or so later, I was dunking a fragment of the shell-

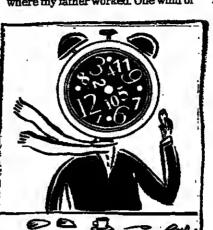
shaped sponge in a teaspoon of tea the somewhat prissy technique adopted by the cartoon hero. Needless to say nothing happened. The cake was most toothsome, hut produced little in the way of time travel. I am not alone in my desire to

consume fiction's most illustrious item of patisserie. A recent feature in the New Yorker revealed that 2,000 madeleines per month are sold to Proust worshippers in Illiers-Comray, the author's home town near Chartres. (The community was merely Illiers until 1971, when its fictional counterpart was added by hyphenation.) However, Anne Borrel, the curator of the town's Proust Museum, holds the

trenchant view that "the cuit of the madeleine is hlasphemy". Crumbs! Apparently, the great Marcel was not so obsessed by these cakes as most people think. In earlier drafts of his magnum opus, it appears that the role of the madeleine was taken by the toest

Of course, the truth is that we each have our own madeleine - a sensation that instantly whizzes us back across

the decades. In my case, it is the pungent scent of Kalamata olives. This is not because I had a sun-drenched childhood in the Peloponnese. Far from it. My early years were passed in the less-than-exotic location of the West Riding. However, the smell of Kalamata olives is exactly the same as the curing vats in the wire factory where my father worked. One whiff of



a Greek salad and I'm back there.

A NATION rejoices at the news of the royal nuptials. I was particularly pleased to learn that Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones intend to continue with their day jobs after tying the knot. The reason is that I was a great fan of the recent TV documentary series presented by His Royal Highness and produced by his company, which is somewhat inappropriately called Ardent. Quite what the series was about, I can't recall. It might have been the Thames, it might have been royal palaces. Possibly both.

Anyway it was unusually uplifting viewing for late-night ITV I'm sure that the decision to show such impeccably worthy material, reminiscent of the old "Look at Life" fillers which they used

to show at the Odeon years ago, was completely unconnected with the royal association. I very much hope that a second, equally informative series will soon be commissioned from Ardent. As a relaxing soporific, Prince Edward beets Horlicks hands down.

I ARRIVE somewhere and head straight for market or the fish docks," writes my hero Rick Stein in his Seafood Odyssey (BBC, £18.99). As Mrs W knows to her cost, such a fragrant expedition is always my first move in foreign parts. Mr Stein began his new TV series among the fish stalls of Naples. Incited by the cameras, a

local show-off chomped a chunk from a live octobus. "You can't do that!" Cornwall's culinary king expostulated. Quite right too. Brightest of all inverte-brates, the octopus has an intelligence comparable to that of a dog. The Neapolitan goon might as well have bitten the paw off a puppy.

Mr Stein writes that "the main reason" for his trip to Naples was pasta puttanesca, my favourite of all pasta sauces. His version took all of 10 minsurely Mr Stein was excessively fastidious when he remarked that the English translation of this dish was too racy for home consumption. "Would anyone order prostitute sauce?" be mused. "I doubt it." Why on earth not? Lots of people have jam tarts.

MRS W is thrilled to hits with her new chandelier. Ordered with some difficulty from Habitat (there was a long waiting list), it consists of nine halogen bulbs, each equipped with a small plastic shade and supported by a long malleable wire. God knows how much it cost. (Mrs W hid the hill and that's always a bad sign.) Once in place, you tangle up the wires and that's it. I must say the result looks better than it sounds. However, since the light draws attention to the fact that our ceiling is in severe need of re-decoration, it has rarely been illuminated. This leads me to the view that we might just as well have erected a tangle of wire coat-hangers and achieved much the same effect.

This new source of illumination makes it impractical for me to adopt a lighting idea I came across in Whithy Museum over Christmas. It is an embalmed human hand cut from a hanged felon. It seems that the mitt was used as a holder for a candle prepared with fat rendered from the dead man's body. The "Hand of Glory" was supposed to put sleepers into a trance. "It was thus a useful piece of equipment for burglars," notes a fact sheet issued by the museum. I freely offer this exciting design concept to the young ntes and looked wonderful on TV. But Turks of BBC-2's Changing Rooms.

SPIRIT OF THE AGE

PAUL VALLELY

100 years without a drink

JUST THINK, if you were a teetotaller, how you feel this morning is as good as you can expect to feel all day. So goes the traditional apologia of those who drink to excess and routinely put up with the liverish discomfort of the morning after the night before.

Of course, there is an alternative. You could give up drinking. Why? Well, as an act of self-denial. To set a good example to those who drink to excess. world's general intemperance.

This is not the kind of language, it must be said, designed to appeal to our modern hedonistic age. Even in this first full week of January - with the season of over-indulgence having drawn to its dyspeptic close, and the resolutions of improved lifestyle still weighing heavy upon us - there is something about the idea of permanent abstinence which seems out of tune with the times. And yet this month a body dedicated to such asceticism celebrates its 100th anniversary, as strong today as it was when it was launched in a very different milieu.

The Pioneer Total Abstinence Association, which has half a million members around the world, will this month hold a service in the Metropolitan Cathedral in Southwark - followed by an alcohol-free dinner dance - to celebrate its 100th birthday.

What motivates such self-restraint? In order to find out I went along to have lunch with its president, Pat Hampton, a former postman who now makes his

living processing covenants for Cardinal Hume.

It was with some trepidation that I handed him the menu. Passing over the wine list in favour of mineral water had not proved that difficult, but there hardly seemed to be a dish on the menu that wasn't cooked in white wine, flavoured with madeira or marsala or flamed in brandy.

'Oh that's alright," he said as he scrutinised it. "We're allowed all that. The days of meat and two veg are long gone, and food is so much more adventurous. We just use our common sense. Indeed sherry trifle is a regular favourite at our dinner-dances."

There seemed something endearingly innocent about the trifle. The first Pioneer I had met had been an altogether more robust character. Some years ago I came across an old clock-maker called Tommy who coupled the no-drink commitment with a decidedly more macho career as an amateur boxing champion - skills which he combined in later life disciplining errant drunks in monastic alcohol rehabilitation programmes in his native Ireland.

But what all Pioneers have in common was adherence to three rules: to abstain from alcohol for life; to wear the organisation's lapel badge: and to say a daily prayer of dedication. For the motivation of the organisation is religious - its full title is the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart.

It's always seemed to me to be an odd object of devotion - the physical heart of Jesus. There's nothing in the bible about it, but medieval mystics hit upon the wounded heart, encircled by a crown of thorns and radiating light, as a symbol of Christ's love for the world. It's an even odder symbol for abstainers to adopt for, unlike other New Testament figures such as the tee-total John the Baptist, Jesus was a hit of a boozer. His critics even call him a drunkard in two of the gospels, and he certainly used wine as a key symbol at

his last supper. "We do not deny that wine is one of God's good gifts," said Pat as he tucked into something wine-free hut irredeemably high-fat. "It's just that we have chosen to make a voluntary life-

long sacrifice of it." The idea of total abstinence grew out of the perceived failure of moderation to curb drunkenness - and the squalor and poverty that resulted from it among the working classes in the 19th century. There was oothing new about the idea. In medieval times St Boniface banned alcohol in his monasteries; the English Puritans were not exactly big on booze; and the first temperance movements appeared in churches in the 18th cectury.

But the idea of moderation had initially appealed to post-Enlightenment man until the 19th century reformers decided it was ineffectual. It was in 1832 that the moderation society in Preston, Lancashire, went total and - thanks to



Good Templars of the Temperance Society, c1900

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the stammer of one of its leading lights - coined the term teetotal. Some 50 years later the Pioneers were formed in Dublin by a Jesuit priest.

You might imagine that it has been in decline since. But in fact its membership - at 500,000 (just half of them in Ireland) - has remained pretty constant, surprisingly so given the "if it feels good, do it" temper of our times where slimming is as near as most of us come to self-restraint. And slimming, of course, is an introverted selfabsorbed activity whereas abstinence finds its focus outside the self. "I don't do this for me," says Pat. "It's my effort - through prayer and by example - on behalf of someone whom I might never

know about." In a church renowned for its

historians will recall that 1968 marked

the beginning of the American gener-

ation in world history. Just to be alive

in America, just to be alive at this time,

is an experience unparalleled in history.

Think: 32 years from now most Americans living today will celebrate

a New Year that comes once in a thou-

sand years. And by our decision in this

year, we - all of us here, all of you

listening on television and radio - we

will determine what kind of nation

America will be. We will determine

what kind of a world America will live

lives in a great city, he's black or he's

white, he's Mexican, Italian Polish,

none of that matters. What matters:

Tonight, I see the face of a child. He

in in the year 2000.

he's an American child.

whiskey priests the Pioneers are not universally well received. "Some clergy seemed to think we were killjoys. We were seen as old-fashioned. But drugs have changed that among many." Saying no to drugs has been a key element in the movement's youth clubs, like the one Pat runs in Cricklewood, London. "We get young people involved and let them see you can have good time without drink, Many of. them then never feel the need for it."

Around half the Pioneers have never touched a drop. The other half were people for whom alcohol was becoming a problem. "I liked it too much myself," admits Pat. "But I'm not anti-drink. I'm just saying that people have a choice - and I made it." And we

DAYS LIKE THESE

9 JANUARY 1965

RICHARD NIXON, politician (pictured), prites in his memoirs:

"After a small party to

celebrate my 52nd hirthday, I sat in my study to look back on the past year and look ahead into the future. I reflected on the fact that Winston Churchill had been in his mid-fifties when he lost his position of leadership in the House of Commons in 1929, and most of his contemporaries had then written him off as a political leader. But Churchill refused to write himself off. I took heart from the example of his refusal to give up... I wrote down some 'new year's resolutions for 1965': Set great goals; Daily rest; Brief vacations; Knowledge of all weaknesses; Better use of time; Begin writing book; Golf or some other kind of daily exercise; Articles or speeches on provocative new international and national

I put down my yellow pad, turned out the light and stared into the fire"



10 JANUARY 1969

RICHARD BURTON. actor, notes in his journal:

"Elizabeth [Taylor, his wife] was astonishingly drunk even as I got to lunch. I don't recollect her before being incoherent from drink. I expect it's from the drugs she's forced to take, not the booze. Christ, I hope she's all right. It would be frightful to live the rest of our lives in an alcoholic haze, seeing the world through fumes of spirits and cigarette smoke. never quite sure what you did or said the day before, what you read, whether wise or foolish, tardy or soon. God, I'm going to have a whisky and soda right now."

11 JANUARY 1942

IAN MORRISON. journalist, observes Kuala Lumpur awaiting the arrival of the Japanese:

"Civil authority had broken down. The European officials and residents had all evacuated. There was looting in progress such as I Most of the hig department stores had already been whistled clean. There was now a general sack of all shops and premises. The streets were knee-deep in hoxes and cardboard cartons

and paper. Looters could he seen carrying every imaginable prize away with them. Here was one man with a Singer sewing-machine over his shoulder, there a Chinese with a long roll of linoleum tied to the hack of his hicycle, here two Tamils with a great sack of rice suspended from a pole, there a young Tamil struggling with a great box of the best Norwegian

IAN IRVINE

America's leaders have failed

AS WE look at America, we see cities euveloped in smoke and flame. We hear sirens in the night. We see Americans dying on distant battlefields abroad.

And as we see and hear these things, millions of Americans cry out in anguish: "Did we come all this way for this? Did American boys die in Normandy and Korea and in Valley Forge for this?" Listen to the answers to those questions. It is another voice, it is a quiet voice in the tumult of the shouting. It is the voice of the great majority of Americans, the forgotten

Americans. America's in trouble today not because her people have failed hut because her leaders have failed. And what America needs are leaders to match the greatness of her people.

And this great group of Americans the forgotten Americans and others - know that the great question Americans must answer by their votes in November is this: Whether we shall continue for four more years the policies of the last five years.

My fellow Americans, tonight I accept the challenge and the commitment to provide that new leadership for America and I ask you to accept it with me.

as a grim duty but as an exciting adventure in which we are privileged

to help a great nation realise its

That's what we will do. And let us accept this challenge not

and little action. The time has come for an honest government in the United States of America. My fellow Americans, I believe that

Republican nomination for the presidential election of 1968 with a call for 'honest government' (8 AUGUST 1968)

destiny, and let us begin by committing ourselves to the truth to see it like it is and tell it like it is, to find the truth, to speak the truth and to live the truth.

We've had enough of hig promises

CLASSIC

PODIUM

From a speech by Richard

Nixon accepting the

That child in that great city is more important than any politician's promise. He is America, he is a poet, he is a scientist, he's a great teacher, he's a proud craftsman, he's everything we've ever hoped to be in everything we dare to dream about.

He sleeps the sleep of a child, and he dreams the dreams of a child. And yet when he awakens, he awakens to a living nightmare of poverty, neglect and despair.

He fails in school, he ends up on welfare. For him the American system is one that feeds his stomach and starves his soul, It breaks his heart. And in the end it may take his life

on some distant hattlefield. To millions of children in this rich land this is their prospect - but this is only a part of what see in America.

I see another child tonight. He hears a train go by. At night he dreams of faraway places here he'd like to go. It seems like an impossible dream. But he is helped on his journey through life. A father who had to go to work before he finished the sixth grade sacrificed everything he had so that his sons could go to college.

A gentle Quaker mother with a passionate concern for peace quietly wept when he went to war hut she understood why he had to go.

A great teacher, a remarkable football coach, an inspirational minister encouraged him on his way. A couraous wife and loyal children stood by him in victory and also in defeat. And in his chosen profession of politics, first there were scores, then hundreds and then thousands and finally millions who worked for his success.

And tonight he stands before you, nominated for President of the United States of America. You can see why I believe so deeply in the American dream. For most of us the American revolution has been won, the American dream has come true.

What I ask of you tonight is to help me make that dream come true for millions to whom it's an impossible dream today.



D REVIEW

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THE SATURDAY ESSAY

Our desire to conform is crushing the human spirit



KENNETH MINOGUE

The attack on individualism amounts to a project for closing down the innovative vitality of the modern world

INDIVIDUALISM IS a 19th century word for a 16th century phenomenon: the praedcc of living in terms of coherent desires under the rule of law, rather than within the graduated rankings Europeans inherited from the middle ages. Individualism unleashed, for better or for worse, everything that makes the modern West dynamic and innovative. It has also created a moral universalism never before seen. Responsible and compassionate about the evils of the world, individualists have seldom been able to free themselves from the taint of selfishness arid egotism. The slide from social description to pejorative moral judgement takes place in the hlink

This collapse into condemnation happens because the vocabulary of individualism sounds harsh to ears becoming accustomed to the competing moral attitudes found in such terms as "co-operation", "teamwork" and, especially, "community", a term which seldom occurs without a great outpouring of Incense. At its most gross, contemporary rhetoric identifies individualism with a stereotype of self-interested rational choice, thought to flourish only in capitalism, alias the economy. To engage in endeavours that, even indirectly, make one better off than one's neighbour is often, in a reprise of Bolshevik sentiment, interpreted as the moral fault of greed.

These attitudes constitute a semantic along with political correctness, as a vehicle for hostility to libertarian justifications of the public policies pursued by Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan. This hostility has led almost to a collapse of morality itself. Instead of bold assertions of right and wrong, which can be argued about, we have a sociality in which the wrong is described y by using evasive relational terms such as anti-social" or "unacceptable".

One of the many oddities of this new understanding should be immediately evident. It is the relation between individualism and successful co-operation. Individualists have throughout the modern period exhibited a capacity for intelligent joint action which far exceeds that of more communally organised civilisations. This capacity to respond imaginatively to changing situations is what explains the military and industrial superiority of Western cultures. Yet the communitarian attack on individualism takes the form of arguing that individualists are alienated atoms too selfish to be able to work together. The implication is that effectiveness requires conforming to what the community (alias the state) requires of us. This implication tells us a great deal about the politics of this rising morality.

It is this pobtical question which has in our time given a special bite to the question of social reality. Is the thing we call "society" simply the outcome of the doings of the individuals composing it, or is it something like a Platonic form in which we all, in slightly different ways, participate? At every step in the response to such questions, partisans have their ears cocked in search of rhetorical advantage. For if society does, in fact, involve some common element "above" each individual, then the only way to improve the world is by operating through collectivist policies, and the only candidate for the role of agent of this collective is the state. That is why it has been argued (for example by Karl Popper) that methodological collectivism has political implications, indeed perhaps



An early morning crowd of commuters flows over London Bridge, the ultimate image of our 'ant-like' existence

even leads directly to totalitarianism. If such a thing as Herbert Spencer referred to as a "social sensorium" is real, then society is a single collective feeling and there may well be a case for consciously directing it.

Marx was, of course, one of the main foes of individualism and deplored even postulating such a thing as "society" "the particular individual is only a particular species being and as such mortal." The reality of the individual is thus for Marx nothing else but his immersion in society. Some version of this view has been the immemorial belief of mankind.

Individualism - as the beliefs associated with the exploration of human individuality - challenged this belief and it is in fact what distinguishes the modern Western world from other civilisations. It is the thing that the historian Burckhardt observed Italy "swarming with" in the Renaissance, and during the Reformation it surged into the sphere of religion, and not merely among Protestants. The political philosophy of Hobbes in his Leviathan of 1651 replaced the medieval idea of graduated society by a conception of individuals each pursuing his (and rather later her) own good under laws made by a sovereign power. The French were especially fertile in exploring the psychology of this new creature, who typically appeared in theory as an egotist. Radical critics of individualism often condemned it by contrast with nostalgic ideas of the patriotic virtues of the classical republics and thus interpreted individualism as a symptom of moral corruption.

Some saw the modern world as an arena of alienated and miserable people who were crying out for an enlightenment that would bring order and happiness. Yet individualism not only survived but proved capable of defending itself. Some defences were defiantly paradoxical, such as Mandeville's view that it was precisely the vices of these selfish individuals which

made them so prosperous. Marnmon was thus one of the presiding deities of individualism, and it rapidly commercialised society. The growth of the market was something despised by many groups, ranging from poets to aristocrats. Yet Adam Smith and later writers argued that it was the basis of more peaceful and polished manners. With the industrial revolution, increasing numbers migrated

from the countryside to the towns, where the individual had long composed a new class of person, soon to be much hated. called the middle class, or the bourgeoisle" Quite how the vast improvements in human possibility created by this new civilisation came to be so extensively rejected, often by those who had most benefited, is a complicated story, but there is amounts to a project for closing down the innovative vitality of the modern world.

It is as a moral theory that individualism is currently most neglected. Individualist moral theory is a rejection of the Platonic idea that the moral life is an athletic struggle in which reason is forever at work subduing disorderly passions. Virtue platonically understood turns out to be fitting into a pattern, and individuality can, in Platonic theory no less than in the case of traditional civilisation, only be the problem constituted by deviance, eccentricity and waywardness. The only real virtue in traditional thought is fitting in. Not to fit in is merely irrational A common derivation from this line of thought is the idea that the state has the responsibility for articulating and enforcing whatever is thought to be the rational pattern of life.

Individuality is, of course, only one among the possible bases for a social order. It is, in a sense, something that a culture imposes upon the people who share it, and while it has now spread remarkably, it is a unique civilisation creation. The modern West has been a daring adventure in human evolution because a situation in which individuals have the discretion to act on their own judgements seems to be the problem rather than the solution to social order. And it is certainly true that a society constituted in this way requires a strong element of internalisation of the rules that make it possible.

This was how the modern Western world rejected castes, social hierarchies and even automatic respect for elders. It was a remarkable adventure, requiring a great deal of nerve and forever conducted amid the wailing of those who believed, and still believe, that unless we conformed to some ideal pattern of a good society we should inevitably come to grief.

And yet it survived. Nervous passengers caught up in this adventure were forever holding their hands over their eyes as they discerned shipwreck ahead, but eventually

the very term "crisis" became a bit of a joke because the ship sailed, not without turbulence but certainly without shipwreck. through so many of them. Economic depressions, revolutions, moral collapse and war - somehow individualist cultures emerged with renewed energy every time. The difficult thing to explain is why these successes seemed merely to feed the apwhich, in being necessarily static, would equally necessarily amount to the suppression of the individual.

The reason is, one may suggest, that modern European states have, along with their achievements, also been arenas of spectacular conflict. Further, with advancing technology these conflicts have become immensely destructive. Yet the very technological capacity that causes despair also feeds the hope that our so remarkable civilisation can "construct" a society of perfect harmony.

Individualism has thus become the victim of its own triumphs, and the way in which this has happened is an object lesson in the way in which moral ideas are subverted in our time. The essential precept of individualism as a morality is the belief in responsible choice. Whereas in other civilisations most people find themselves under the tutelage of others, the modern individualist was left to do his prudence for himself. Success and failure are important, hut in Christian belief the world to come can be called in to correct the inevitably imperfect nutcomes of human life. But such individual moral responsibility, with failure as the risk, was a remarkably hracing discipline. In advanced modern democratic soci-

eties, however, the sufferings of imprudent people become public issues attracting understandable sympathy. The poor and the improvident both lack the means for medical care or welfare in old age. The state steps in and makes at least some sort of basic provision and ohviates much avoidable suffering. Admirable, no doubt, but it quite changes the terms of human life. The self-control that a prudent virtue requires is undermined when the prudent end up no hetter off than the imprudent.

At the same time, the idea of individualism is vulgarised by removing the condition of responsibility. Freedom is left signifying nothing more than having a pleasurable set of options to choose from. Life becomes a supermarket of experience,

imagined to be costless, and everyone must have a right to them all. But the moment the idea of responsibility is detached from the idea of choosing, then we begin to cre-

Peter MacDiarmid

ate a world in which mere impulse rules. There is no doubt that such a world is morally shallow. What is perhaps less evident is that It also transforms the polltical world. The individualist acts and takes e consequences. The and is saved from his folly by the welfare state. This looks like a great human advance - happiness oo the cheap, as it were. But like most substitutes for virtue. it has hidden costs. Someone has to do the prudence, supply the responsibility and the ordering of social life. This task falls, of course, to government, which increasingly becomes our master - or, to use the Greek

world, despot. Modern politics thus exhibits a fascinating cycle which begins with the enactment of some new right or liberation - the right to a pension, for example, or medical services free at the point of need - a liberation, perhaps, which rejects inherited sexual restraints.

However, in a generation or so, individual vices turn into social problems, and the government steps in. Caring about old age, which in the 19th century led most people, even those who were. very poor, to make some provision for themselves, becomes a legislated duty. Governments now compel what was once a virtue. Free medical care leads to government control over diet and lifestyle. Sexual liberation is more recent but the emergence of governmentally enforced puritanism is already on the horizon.

The term individualism has itself become one element of this advancing repression. Because its meaning has been corrupted, it can more easily be denigrated. Instead of the real thoughtful individualism on which modern civilisation was built, it now refers to the impulsive and irresponsible satisfaction of desires. And this corrupt sense of individualism is coming to be partnered by an equally corrupt sense of community - as fitting in with a single pattern of life over which government presides in greater and greater detail.

The writer is Emeritus Professor of Political Science at the London School of Economics. This article has been adapted by the writer from n review in this week's 'Times Literary Supplement'

BAROMETER

SEAN O'GRADY

Senator of the week

age and, thus, the nearest thing America has to our own Queen Mother. He also has a fancy title, "President Pro-Tempore", which means he is the longestserving senator, having been first elected in 1948. His flesh is still willing and a number of incidents testify to the enduring strength of his spirit. Only last year he challenged rival senator John Glenn's right to go ahoard the space shuttle. "I always believed that if Nasa really wanted to study the effect of

Glenn is only 77, after all. When Strom was just 94 he faced accusations that he had fondled a wnman senator in a lift. Senator Patty Murray, less than half his age at 46 and selfdescribed as a 'mom in tennis shoes", said that the older man put his arm round her while he tried to grope her breast and asked in his southern drawl "Are you married, little lady?". Ideally qualified, then, to act as a juror in the Clinton trial.

space travel on older Americans

they should have called me".

Tribute of the week "We shall not see his like

in The Mirror this week of Gordon Brown's (soon to be ex-) spin doctor Charles Whelan. "Stash him in the press bar in the Commons, where he is a tireless spinner for Labour, and he works till he drops." There are many witnesses to the intense work that Paul and indeed

Charles would do in that establishment until they, the room, or both, stopped spinning. Bird of the week The completion of the Millennium Dome threatens one of the last redstart, .

Phoenicurus ochrurus, a very rare breeder. Still, what can we expect from the man now in charge, a Lord Falconer? Lookalike of the week

Has Peter Mandelson ever been a male model? One wonders. Note the remarkable resemblance between this, one of the Britannia Building Society's "Wallace and Gromit" style advert characters, and their most famous mortgage

image of the week This is the Canon Picture of the Year, taken by Mike Maloney. who works for the Sunday People. It is, in fact, a "remake" of a famous shot by American legend Elliott Erwitt. No matter, though. Every dog has its day, as Strom Thurmond





Britain's biggest landlord

WALTER FRANCIS John Montague Douglas Scott, the septuagenarian ninth Duke of Buccleuch, is the country's largest landowner, with vast estates in Scotland. His acreage is bigger even than the Queen's. He is also tipped as a possible future King of the Scots. Is he miffed, I am wondering, by the Government's

Scottish estates? The phone at Drumlanrig, his vast fairy-tale castle in Domfriesshire, is engaged. Apparently, there is only one. Finally, I get

new plans to buy up badly managed

through. "Your Grace," I say, verbally tugging the forelock as I announce myself. "You sound like a racing correspondent," laughs a friendly

English voice that is a cross between Kenneth More and Tony Benn. "Well, you don't sound very Scottish to me," I reply, laughing back.

Is he really Scottish? "Of course. There are lots of people who don't have Scottish accents who are Scots. Being Scottish is about the air one hreathes. It's the stuff one is made of, If one has walked the countryside as a child and trampled through the mud, one feels close to this land."

Ah, the land. And how much of it does be in fact own? "Just over 400 square miles," he replies as unpompously as possible. That's a small country, I say. "Yes, but 96 per cent of it is windswept hills, defined hy the European Union as severely

COLD CALL

JACK O'SULLIVAN RINGS THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH

says, "because we took the reverse attitude down here in the Borders.

We created a village, Newcastleton, to provide a base for people so that they could stay in the countryside instead of being drawn overseas and into the cities.

But he must agree, mustn't he,

But it's not a bad slab, I say. "Does a popular lot? "I don't know what you your family have any guilty secrets mean by the Scottish aristocracy," from the Clearances?" "No," he he says. "We're no different from anyone else. We don't have different coloured hair."

Hasn't he seen Braveheart, with its tale of Scottish aristocratic betrayal? "I must be the only person in Scotland who hasn't," he laughs. "I'm afraid the cinema is rather a long way from here. But I'd be that the Scottish aristocracy are not delighted if someone would send me

a video of it." I offer my pirate copy and he gives me his address, spelling out Drumlanrig.

Maybe he would be stirred to claim that King of the Scots title? "Certainly not." says the duke. " I would have no more interest in it than you would have in being King of the Irish." A step up from racing correspondent, I think to myself.

Anyway, what about Labour's plans? "Actually, I looked at them and concluded that they will not affect us. They are designed for exceptionally bad landowners, for whom one really has no sympathy." Nor does the duke mind plans to extend access to private land. "People have been free to walk all over our estates for the last 100 years or more."

Everybody except the duke, that is. For over 20 years, since breaking his back in a riding accident, he has been confined to a wheelchair, Would he swap his lands for legs? "No, I wouldn't. It's not mine to do so. I'm merely a link in a long chain of people who have acquired all of this land by perfectly honourable means. In any case, I'm 75 now and don't have long to go."

Does Britain's largest landlord think he will get to heaven? "If I can get into the House of Commons." laughs this former Conservative MP confidently, "then I can get into heaven. I found enough people to vote me in four times. Did you know that Robin Cook challenged me in 1970? I defeated him comfortably."

Who needs Liverpool when you can have Hong Kong? Meet Barry Cox, gearing up for Canto-pop stardom. By Emma Cook

A wok'n'roll hero is something to be

n a small, packed nightclub in the heart of Liverpool's Chinatown, Barry Cox is creating his uaual mayhem among a mainly female audience. Striding across the stage, surrounded by a dozen female dancers, he launches into one of his favourite numbers. "I think I am Chinese. I want to be Chinese," he croons, in an impeccable Cantonese dialect. A young Chinese girl in the front row looks up at him imploringly and mouths back, "Tve got a crush on you." The girl standing next to her shouts out, "Are you English or Chinese?" "I'm English. Look at my skin." he replies, and the crowd howls with laughter.

Chinese Elvis impersonators may be commonplace but the cultural compliment has never really been returned. While Western bands have flirted with Oriental styles, taking it on wholesale. sans irony, is something new. Weird, some may say. Such is the self-importance of American and British pop culture, we assume it's perfectly natural that other nations will revere ours and that we take absolutely no interest

Twenty-one-year-old Barry, though, in his own modest way. hopes to forge a more enlightened path. "I just feel I'm the hridge hetween Chinese and English culture. No one ever bothers to find out about each other. I want to close the gap."

While most 21-year-old boys with any musical aspirations are busy checking their mike techniques in the mirror and perfecting Jarvis Cocker hand movements, Barry is scouring the music shops of Chinatown for the latest CDs from Hong Kong. Forget The Beatles, The Cavern and Liverpool's rich musical heritage. Barry certainly has - his mecca is Hong Kong, where he hopes to take the "Canto-pop" scene



Barry Cox, a Chinese man trapped inside a Liverpudlian's body, at home in the city's Chinatown

singer there," he says in a Liverpudlian slur. "I'd also love to be in a John Woo movie."

His first foray into pop stardom, Canto style, came with an impromptu performance during a language class. "Our teacher wanted everyone to do something for New Year and I got up and sang an old Chinese song. After that, I thought I'd love to try pop."

It took him nearly four months to

learn one song. There are nine different ways to say one word. You have to keep practising your high tongue and low tongue." Now he refuses to sing in English. "I can't - I'm always out of tune.

Barry's interest in Chinese cul-

up a friendship with a Chinese boy working there. The two taught each other phrases and greetings from one another's language, starting

by storm. "Ideally, I'd love to be a ture kick started with a chance visit school, alongside 15-year-old pupils, singer there," he says in a Liver- to a local chip shop, where he struck for his GCSE. "Some of them have got used to me. Others think I'm strange. They laugh at me when I speak up in class." Generally, though, he appears to have earned

learn about their culture," says Barry, "At first, it's hard to be accepted. If you ask them something, they'll cut you off or ignore you. But it's like a mystery for me. I want

'If I didn't have an interest in everything Chinese, I'd be just a normal person. I just want to be different from everyone else'

off with "Two spring rolls and a bag of chips to take away, please".

Barry picked it up quickly and was so inspired he began a language course at Liverpool's Pagoda Centre. Now he's studying in a Chinese

being part of an exclusive club, one that most white people could never hope to join.

the community's respect and enjoys in and really find out what they're all about."

In his quest to expose the inscrutable, he's immersed himself in "I think they're very happy that an almost obsessive way in every assomeone has taken the trouble to pect of Chinese history and culture.

Chinese thing has got a little out of hand? Singing classic Cantonese pop songs such as "I Love You, OK" is one thing, but changing a perfectly good name like Barry to Gok Pak-Wing (it means long life) is surely pushing his preoccupation from admirable to, umm, sad? "No." says Barry with great conviction. "If I didn't have an interest in everything Chinese, I'd be just a normal person. Nothing special about me would stand out. I just want to be different to everyone else. I want to be... an interesting person.

Natalie Umbruglia and, Barry adds a little dismissively. Celine Dion.
Does Barry ever feel the whole

But Barry's no fool - there is a point to all his hard graft and desperation for an identity change. He's convinced the new persona is going to make him famous and rich, and he may be right. In spring he's off to Hong Kong to visit film and record companies. Barry has tasted fame, in modest measures, and be wants more. "When I go to Chinatown, they applaud me. They all know me. I'm a celebrity there."

Martin Rickett The Wall Street Journal has already picked up on his antics, and one American professor at Berkeley, an expert in Chinese studies, sounds optimistic: "I'd be very surprised if this guy doesn't become a phenomenon in Chinese-speaking places all over the world." Now there's a BBC documentary in the making.

Far from feeling like a Chinese man trapped in a Westerner's body, Barry is aware that it's being neither one but not quite the other that may give him the edge. He sounds outte horrified when I ask him if he'd prefer to actually be Chinese.

"No, definitely not. I like being English. I want to make my own style. It's completely new to combine . the two. That's what makes me feel barely speaks Chinese and loves

O. DA

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anything once, seeks outgoing, considerate man, 48-55ish, 510+, for
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meet requirements, but have other ethibutes. I might reconsider, if you make me laugh. I'm a mischievous Vet. 38, from the South. 274127 FAIRY TALE

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Blonde/blue-syed princess. lonely in her tower, awests talk, strong prince to rescue her, if you're aged 35+ and believe lairy teles can come bue, phone ms. Worestershed West Allelands only, 574123
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Do you like going to an getleries,
classical conforms and theatrs? If so,
then at least we have something in
common. Strm. R. autour-hained lady,
45, seeks intelligent male. 194305
LAST CHANCE BEFORE L.
Louy a dog! Busy, professional
woman, 40s. with neglected soft
carter, seeks man, 40-50s, with no
unresolved begogge, for talking,
touring, tretking and touching,
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GLOUCESTERSHIPS
Witty, Independent, some times

With, Independent, some times quite, an reflective, attractive, attractive, women, 44, 527, files Shekespeare, Frasier, Sellmi, The Fast Show, distance the Anchers, and shopping, seeks NS male, to contemplate the possibilities. 124183

seeking

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I AM A PRINCE

Vary good-borking, erchitect/historian/ecturer, 34, interested in humanibles, art and social actences, single,
Mediternasen-borking, never been
married, no children, seeks special,
nice, hornest, very intelligent woman.

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TALL, DARK & HANDSOME

Sim, attractive, black male, early
30s. 6, seeks black-writts lady, 3050. London eras. 154477

CULTURE VULTURE

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seeks preflysh intrined spirt, under

40. London or NE Instand. 154409

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HALF-DECENT BLOKE HALF-DECENT BLOKE
Male. 35, 6°, mim build, sensitive
and firmy, enjoys hat walking, travel,
Radio 4, music, cinema, books,
flives rumanic comedies and would
new quite files to be in one. 194423
HURRY HURRY HURRY!
Offer of the week, Young 40, slim,
munctive, solvent, essygoing
London-based male, seeks attractive, loving, 30-sonsiting woman,
for lasting relationship. 194361
SettleNTH MAY 1930
Astrology-orientated scorpio mide,

Astrology-orientated scorpio mele, 56, seeks possible best soul mate, elimen, Taurean tigress, 124293 ROCK STAR

ROCK STAH
North London male, seeks attractive, tracresting ternale, 20-30, must be music, iterature, nights out, lood, drivi, etc. \$4299
LOOKING FOR YOU
LOOKING FOR YOU
Countryside, theatre, onema, seeks interesting ternale, for rumance, \$74300 rional male, 43, recently

conversation, seeks warm, gentie, loyal famale, 28-40, to help put romance back into life. Hampshire

Assan male, S. GSCH, educated, party gring, seeks suisable famale, any nationality, GSCH, educated, who likes sports, clutting, nights cut. 27475
HAPPY NEW YEAR
Male, 27, 61, doetor, black hair, brown eyes, well travelled, likes the-site, restaurants, chierne, art gelleries, seeks older lemale, 3745, to see in the new year, possibly more. 274426

SINGLE DUDE... with strategically placed preroings, with strategically partner and soul rate, strate mind a must, bright htteligent eyes a bonus, carleare and incolor afive afive o. Midlands area. \$24427

HAME, YOUNDERN MAIR, YOUNDERN SHOULD HOME, SOOKS YOUNDER, SENCESHOOLD PARTIES OF THE MEMORY SHOULD HAVE BY ALONG BY LONDON MAIR, 48. 58, medium build, gray-blue eyes, a liste thin on top but hear in ngin place, divorced, professional, respigning nature, many interests, seeks female, for loving, trusting, committed relationship, 34425

Strp. 174425 TAKE A CHANCE Attractive, architect, interior design-er, md-30s, 5 10°, s8m, N-S, GSOH, pretty essygoing, enjoys weekends away, visiting places of interests, seeke female, in stmilar profession/ soe, but designing mathocates.

LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YOU Outgoing male, 45, 67, GSOH, originally from Barbados, Rices cricket, footsell, clubs, pubs, dancing, seeks lemale, 30-45, who lives a taugh, for friendship, maybe more in time.

friendship, maybe more in time.

194:35

IT'S GOOD TO TALK
White male, 49, 611, light-brown
hair, GSOH, athletic, animal owner,
NW London based, healthy lifestyle,
own house, seeks younger, untal-tached female, who s looking for
someone special. 1944;33

IN THERE!
Male, 34, GSOH, into rock climbing,
biking, sports, outdoor pursuits,
occasional dmik, clubbing, injoins in,
reading, seeks like-minded female,
for hierdship, poesible relationship.
194158

FRENCH MAN

Tall, white male, brown/brown, new

FRENCH MAN
Tall, white male, brown/brown, new lo London, lonely, likes clubs, restaurants, drives in the country-side, seeks similar understanding, single femile, 30-34, blonderblue, for intendiship, 274306
COMPANY DIRECTOR
White male, early 30s, emjoys brevel, exploring new places, cinema, the-abre, earling out etc. seeks intelligent, cultured female, 27-35, who likes to breated like a lady, for intendiship-relationship, 274302
LIMITED EDITION
Caring male, with GSOH, enjoys the good frings in life, seeks similar female, for friendship, 274301
TURN OVER
A new lead, a new year. Good-looking male, 30, loves chema, thestre,

His favourite food is Chinese - spe-

cial chow mein with squid. His

favourite film star is Jackie Chan. He

admits he has fewer English friends

and more Chinese ones these days.

When he's not swotting up on Chinese verbs, he's perfecting his mar-

tial arts and Chinese calligraphy.

Barry's bedroom reflects all this:

Chinese scrolls, a big Buddha, paint-

ed screens, drawings and charms

cover the surfaces. He's also left his

job, at an electrical store, to help out

in a Chinatown supermarket. "It's

not what I really want to do. I'm only

It's hardly necessary to say which

nationality his girlfriend Niki is.

They met at a karaoke evening. Niki

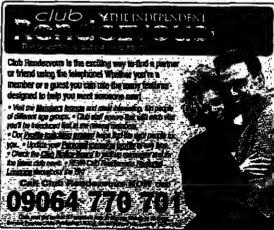
there to learn more about them."

PRIAN ICAL MOVENTURES, creative, touoclastic, Francophile, streativise, absurdist, babyboomer, spirituelly/emotionally alive and healthy, into seeing, listening, walk-ing, talking, taughing, communicat-ing, cooking, skiing, partying, being and stence, London, And you, 30-40sh, 1814420

Handsome Asian male, 39, Indepen-dent, businessmen, based weet

LOOKING FOR LOVE Gay male, 26, good-loo Sirectine as stated, thoughtful, nonexcode, 41, likes travel, thistite, music, antiques, socialising, seeks similar mate, similar ege, for triandship initially, possible relationship, 2M(3)8

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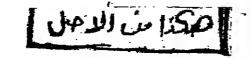
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talie Umbruglia and Bany ttle dismissively Celue De Does Barry ever feel the nese thing has got a little to nese trueg has got a little of Singing classic Cantons, dr. Singing classic Cantons, dr. Love You of thing, but changing a page d name like Barry to Goth g (it means ions life) is a hing his reference upation from able to union sado 10 Ty with great conviction; I't have an interest in every rese. I'd legual a normal por hing special about me to id out. I just want to be diffe remone else, i want tobe resting person :

ut Barros in fool - there t to all his hard graft ande tion for an Henny de convinced the new person g to make him famous aning he may be right in springs) Hong Kong to visit filme rd companies. Barry has me, in modest measures ants more. When I go wo wn, they applied me They me. I'm a celebrity there ie Well Firent Journal has v piened an on his anties a ememoan professoral Bette pert in Chinese studies som nistie to be very surprise ruy doesn thecome a phene in Chinese speaking place: the world flow (nere's a Ba mentar in the making r from the int like a Ching rapped in a litesterner sho the source of that it's being nearly us not come the other thang dry 200 dags. He sounds one ied when I are num if he duactually be chinese

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4: 0171 293 2505



Do ya think I'm sixty?

Rachel Hunter's decision to leave her husband Rod Stewart in order to 'find herself' is another poignant reminder of the plight of the ageing rock star. By David Thomas

t's a tough life being an ageing rock megastar. One minute you're trolling round the stadia of America and Britain, singing, "Do ya think I'm sexy?" Theo the next. your wife replies with, "Well, no I doo't now you come to mention it. and heads off to "find herself" without you.

And so it was that Rachel Hunter walked out on Rod Stewart, an event so momentous that it was aonounced on Radio 4's Today programme right up there with the crisis in Sierra Leone and the latest disasters in Kosovo. Some might see this as another example of the BBC's infamous dumhing-down, a pathetic attempt to be trendy and demotic, like the church's equation of Jesus Christ and Che Guevara. But that would be to misunderstand the deeper significance of Rod's tragic love-split.

Here is a man who, barely three years ago, was getting togged up in a cream satin fruck-coat to re-pledge his troth to his wife tin weddingdress and fur-trimmed cloak), while Hello! magazine ohserved: "Their children, family and friends gather to witness the singer and his wife repeat their wedding vows in a romantic winter ceremony:

Just last August, he was telling Q magazine that "Rachel's a great woman. I can't find any fault with her." He boasted that, "I'm still very rampant, very horny all the time." And if the sex and rock 'n' roll were still in working order, so were the drugs. "I haveo't stopped drinking, because she likes drinking too. She

These men may be ludicrously rich, but their tastes and inclinations were formed almost half a century ago

lets me do a little hit of substance. I never carry it, but if someone's got some I'll have a little line, and that will be the end of it."

You couldn't have hoped to find a happier rock hubby. But if Rod was contented, Rachel was not. Unattributed "friends" have told the tabloids that the Kiwi cutie was bored by her husband's lifestyle. When not working, he liked to sit around the house, tinkering with his train-set or watching the TV From time to time, he'd get the lads round to kick a ball about the 118 x 84 yard football pitch he'd had specially-built at his Essex mansion, or take his Californian ex-pat pals off on football tours of the States. Trips to the puh would be spent "telling old war-stories and boozing" with his mates.

No wonder his pretty young bride felt dissatisfied, yearned to break free, longed for a world in which one could talk about something other than Scotland's World Cup campaigns, 1974-98. And here we get to the nub of it the skull heneath the media skin. For the parting of the 54year-old warbler and his 30-year-old spouse is not only a salutary warning to all rich middle-aged men contemplating the acquisition of a trophy wife, hut also an elegiac reflection of passing time, worthy of deeper contemplation.

Rod is typical of an entire generation of rockers whose reputations were founded on youthful hedonism, but whose every instinct now cries out for a calmer life of carpet slippers and quiet nights in.

These are groovers who'd rather be geezers. They may have ludicrous amounts of money (Stewart's own fortune is estimated at between £50-60m; he last year received £9.2m for the rights to his next 12 with their own interests - gardening, years of publishing income), hut say, or charity work - while their



their tastes and inclinations were formed almost half a century ago, in very different conditions to the ones

they now inhabit. Rod's friend and former band member Ronnie Wood, for example, will happily spend an afternoon in a Dublin pub, drinking Guinness, chatting about his dogs and his horses and the hlues band he plays in with his brothers Art and Ted, both of whom are in their sixties. Ron would natter away all night, except that the missus tends to drag him back home, whereupon he trots off behind her like a penitent Afghan hound.

Similarly, Ron's current musical partner, Keith Richards, reminisces about the days of rationing. National Service, and a boyhood spent playing around old bomb-sites and gun-emplacements. When the last Stones tour ended, he wound down at his home in West Wittering, down on the Sussex retirement coast: "God's little acre," he calls it. Keith's a familiar figure in the Wittering pubs. He gave £30,000 to the villagehall appeal. The locals love him.

Men like that should be settling down with sensible women, of their own age, who are happy to get on



But a rock star's career depends on the illusion, however faded, of youthful vigour. His image, as well as his ego, demands a constant supply of fresh young flesh.

And so we have the tragic sight of Mick Jagger - a natural Tory, an expert on antiques, loves to spend a day at the cricket - getting him-



Mick, Ronnie and Keith: 'their instincts cry out for carpet slippers and quiet nights in'

partners play at being rock stars, or self caught up in a pathetic paternity chunter with their chuns in the pub. case because he simply couldn't say no to a quickie with a Brazilian bimbo. So, too, the end of Rod Stewart's marriage will surely be followed by a binge of blonde models that will be as embarrassing for us to behold

as it will be dissatisfying for him. Rod knows this. Before he met Rachel Hunter, he was "flying birds in from everywhere and shag-



ging them - I was so unhappy". He is condemned to repeat this torment again. And yet, all the while, he will be longing for the days when he could play with his model trains. have a pint with his mates and then come home to the missus. Thus it is that the rake's progress comes, as always, to a miserable end. Pity poor Rodney. His situation is, by any definition, tragic.



When I walk in they all clap

MY WEEK

FIVE DAYS IN THE LIFE OF SUE MATTOCKS, 42, HEAD OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES AT CLARENDON HOUSE GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL WHO THIS WEEK RETURNED TO WORK. SHE WAS AMONG 16 WESTERN TOURISTS KIDNAPPED BY TERRORISTS IN THE YEMEN LAST WEEK

Sunday Wake up at around 8am, relieved to be back home. I go out to huy the newspapers to find out why this had happened and who those people were. At Ham a reporter and a photographer from a tabloid arrive to do an interview. Later get on the scales and I discover I have lost threequarters of a stone, most of it through fear and adrenaline. I

am very shocked to have lost so

much weight as I thought I had

been eating normally. I read my interview in The sentimeotalise the issue, but it was OK. I didn't like getting my photo taken, as I'm not Cindy Crawford, but fortunately I look all right. This Morning want me to go oo the programme. I talk to my headteacher, as I am coocerned about the publicity for the school Jane Bennett tells me that I should do the interview: "It's only going to

happen to you once. I am keen to get back, as I want some normality and I want to see people. The head says, "by all means come in, and see how you go". There is no pressure oo me; the school

is wooderful. I phone the hospital where Margaret Thompson is and leave a message to send my love. I travelled with a really good group of people in Yemen. We weot through such a lot. I'm sure we'll be in touch. But I think we all oeed some space at the moment.

Tuesday At the televisioo studios I am oot nervous, because teachers are used to performing. standing up in front of classes and sometimes making idiots of themselves. The make-up girl says, "You're a good colour", and I think, well, I have just been held hostage, standing up in the sun for hours. I am then asked to look at some video footage of Yemen to see

whether It will be appropriate. It isn't unpleasant or horrible. I recognise the architecture and the landscapes.

Get up just after 6am and go into school, I teach religious studies and have a GCSE class in the morning. When I walk in all the children clap. They have

also bought me a box of

I take assembly in the hall at 9am. I say: "I am happy to be back, but you must remember that people have died. Can we sit quietly for a few momeots to remember the families?" I nearly cry at this point. I am

feeling really wound up.
In the evening I decide that what I want to do is write a detailed account of the abduction. It takes about four hours. I have typed 10 pages and it is midnight when I go to bed. Writing it isn't traumatic hut I want to get the sequence of events right. I am not entirely sure what I want to do with it,

Thursday At school I make a couple of photocopies of my account and put them on the general staff noticeboard. During the day Dawn Ball, head of maths.

hut I am glad to have got it all

takes it down and photocopies it 20 times, asking me why I didn't copy it for everyone. I thought people would ask a few questions; I didn't think they would want a hlow-by-blow account. I am very touched. At lunch time I go to my doctor. I have suffered no

physical injury hut want to be sure I'm OK. I ask the practice ourse to take my blood pressure. She laughs, because it's lower than when I last had it checked. I thought it would have gone through the roof. I have a lesson in the

afternooo with my A-level group. We're quite close, and some come up to give me a hug. It's very touching...
DAISY PRICE

My sons knock chips off the old bloke

I puffed and struggled in their wake. a physical contest: what I need is a I pumped my elbows, pushed as hard hit of understanding, a little symas I could with each foot, but try as pathy. This, I recognised, was an im-I might I couldn't persuade the wheels in my rollerblades to spin fast

enough to catch them. were sitting down to lunch and I hap- wards towards maturity: first day pened to mention that I couldn't keep at school, first night away from up with the boys. Tom, who despises all sports anyway, was merciless. child and so on. "Dad's never been able to keep up with me, because he's a wimp," he pronounced. Then he really dug straight, thinking I was in the very the knife in. "And he's old - he's just

a sad old man." me. For the first time I have been at any sport they choose; they'll have

portant rite of passage for me - and it signified the start of the return journey. Up to now, each rite has I thought no more of it until we been a marker on the voyage uphome, first girlfriend, first job, first

There I was, until a week or two ago, cruising along in the back prime of life, only to discover that I had reached a turning point - and Steady on, Tom, I thought but did- it is all downhill from here. Soon n't say, this is a tricky moment for enough, the boys will be beating me

"COME ON Dad." the boys urged as soundly defeated by my own sons in to "take it easy" when we go for a walk, to avoid tiring me out; they'll offer to carry my bag, and help out with heavy jobs around the house, or drive me to the doctor for a check-up...

Of course I knew it would come to this, eventually. But I was not ready yet, not for a good few years. After all, Darcy still hasn't turned eight - and he's a skin-and-bone strip of a boy with great knobbly knees and the diet of a supermodel supplemented by as many sweets as he can get his hands on. I am a grown man. I eat healthily, exercise thoroughly, and was banking on keeping him in his place at least until he was a hulking teenager. Sensible people, starting with

PARK LIFE



BRUCE MILLAR

my wife, might suggest that it was foolish of me to pit myself against my sons in physical competition, that it

with physical dominance, and that the dent in my male ego was just what I deserved. All this may be so, but the instinct for physical competition is embedded deep in the male psyche. Surely it is better to compete openly and laugh at it than to keep it secret and serious - and much more malign.

The only absolutely vivid memory I have of what I am sure was an otherwise enjoyable family holiday when I was Darcy's age is of spending summer afternoons engaged in long-jump contests with my father (it must have been an Olympic year). I can't remember who won the result was not important - but

for me to link their respect for me competition at a moment's notice. I wide circuit in the gloom of a winalso have, from the same era, a ter- ter's afternoon, and I managed - just rible and guilty memory of losing my - to keep ahead of Darcy, although temper with my father, who laughed I was still far behind Tom. at me so much in the wrestle that followed that he lost his balance and I was able to knock him off his feet. I hated this victory more than the humiliation that preceded it, because it upset what I instinctively knew to

be the natural order of things. Perhaps this was the mirror image of what I felt when beaten on rollerblades by Darcy. Whatever, I took the boys out blading again a few days later, this time to a broad, open space where I could devise a course more suited to my lumbering style than the tight turns where Darcy had was misleading, even dangerous I can close my eyes and summon the left me standing. We raced round this my position just yet, boys.

This was only a short-term solu-

tion. Clearly I'm going to have to get used to the new status quo. But not for a while From now on, I'll only challenge the boys at sports that were already invented when I was young, such as tennis or football, because I have the edge that 30 years of practice hrings, or sports such as distance running or swimming that require stamina, which improves with age (up to a point). But I know that I've got my work cut out, keeping fit enough to compete in the years ahead. I'm not ready to cede

Petra Tegetmeier

the perfect adolescent muse. For her one-time fiancé David Jones, she was the only sitter he could comfortably paint in front of.

Her father's wood-engravings catch her in the bath-tub, combing her hair, shy, demure and never meeting his eye. Jones's swirling lines of pencil and watercolour depict a brooding earth goddess, sometimes stern, sometimes brimming with sensual energy. Always with a glance that suggested, "I know your sort."

The real Petra Tegetmeier (née GII) was far more vital and ebullient than the male gaze ever gave her credit for. When Gill's wife was carrying the unborn Petra, their second child, she first felt the baby's flickering movements on a trip to Rome. Eric Gill, not yet a Catholic, was absorbed by the inscriptions on the Trajan column, but years later, when his daughters made a pilgrimage to Rome, he attached poetic significance to this "quickening" in the holy city.

The family converted to Catholicism in 1913 when Petra was seven years old. Their home was on Ditchling Common, Sussex, in close proximity to the craft workshops where Gill made his sculptures and ran his lettering workshop. Women bore the brunt of domestic work here, in archaic conditions with no running water or electricity. The printer Hilary Pepler and his young family lived nearby, Pepler ran St Dominic's Press and like Gill he longed to reinvent society along rural, non-industrial lines. Self-sufficiency was applauded, health visitors and any invasion into one's domestic life by government bodies were viewed with scorn.

The calligrapher Edward Johnston lived in Ditchling village, and worked on projects with Gill, but as his family was not Catholic the children's lives were not so intertwined. The sensitive Petra remembered Johnston's daughters hiding upstairs when she visited the household: "I don't think our faith was the problem so much as their laughter at our hand-made clothes."

Petra and her sisters, Betty and

FOR HER father, Eric Gill, she was Joan, were bome-schooled: erratic Ethel Mairet. Mairet was a pioneer teaching from their husy father, other artists and craftsmen from the community, and the occasional wellmeaning outsider; sympathetic to metic when it came to measuring or their cause. One such teacher insisted on keeping her pet dog in the impromptu classroom and it barked all through maths. The girls all produced beautiful art work: both stylised Christian imagery after their father, and, when left to their own devices, plump mothers pushing prams. There was sometimes a yearning for the more ordinary side

> David Jones depicted her as a brooding earth goddess - always with a glance that suggested, T know your sort'

of life to he recognised. When Eric Gill carved a wooden doll for Petra with a solemn expression and pigtails she couldn't help wishing that it had fair skin and curls. In her mid-teens Petra "walked

out" with Pepler's son Stephen. Once they did not return from the South Downs until dusk and a search party was sent. Stephen became a Dominican Friar and distinguished theological writer -Father Conrad Pepler, Gill's woodengravings of Petra, Girl in the Bath, Hair Combing and The Plait (1922-23), along with a small stone sculpture of ber which now graces the book jacket of Judith Collins's 1998 catalogue raisonné of Gili's sculpture, all captured Petra's teenage magic, but did not cage it.

At 16 she escaped her patriarch's territory to train locally as a weaver with the tenacious and inspiring

in the revival of hand-weaving in Britain. Petra used to giggle at the memory of her own hopeless arithadding percentages. She would also poke fun at the "superior" visitors to Mairet's workshop who refused to believe that she was weaving with silk because it did not have a shiny artificial finish. Petra was forever fascinated by the texture and detail of handmade cloth. In 1923 Petra became engaged to

the artist and poet David Jones, who was working with her father at Ditchling. Their betrothal was blessed in the chapel on the common and their relationship was intimate

- Jones's painting The Garden Enclosed (1924), now in the Tate, records a kiss amongst the geese with Gill's carved wooden doll dis-carded on the path beside them. When Petra broke off the engage-ment, fearing that Jones did not in reality favour the family life she yearned for, Jones was devastated, but they remained lifelong friends.

Petra then became engaged to the engraver, letterer, cartoonist and former Trappist monk Denis Tegetmeier. They married in 1930. She wove her own wedding dress, and the Penelope within ensured that this was a piece of weaving that she did not unpick. They had a long and happy marriage lasting until his death in 1987.

Petra loved children. Her own four daughters and two sons grew up in Eric Gill's last home, Pigotts. Their parents encouraged their interest in craft and the visual arts -Charlotte went on to found the wonderfully resourceful toyshop and mail-order catalogue "Tridias", William is a thatcher, Adam a photographer, Judith paints and both Prudence and Petra's niece Helen Davies spin and weave.

Well into her eighties, Petra lived alone in a converted weaver's Chapel in Avoncliff, near Bradfordupon-Avon, with several of her children as near neighbours. There were thistles winding out from pots



The Plait, by Eric Gill: a 1922 portrait of his daughter Petra

on the floor and obscuring the television screen, books crowding the shelves and flowered wrap-around aprons hanging on the kitchen door. When a stroke forced her to move into a nursing home, she made sure her interior was recreated as far as was possible, and she took tapestry work and her spinning wheel with her.

Petra Tegetmeier had long been idolised by men for her calmness and serenity hut she was in many ways a woman's woman. She was most at home in the company of women, eating cake on the bench in ber garden. thriving on anecdotes and laughing at some plastic "Transformer" toy vehicle which a grandchild had left in the shrubbery. She could also make art dealers squirm in their shoes just by pursing her lips.

When Fiona MacCarthy's biography Eric Gill (1989) revealed, from the evidence of Gill's diaries, his sexual relations with his two eldest daughters Petra remained unflappable in the face of media furore. She made it clear that her own attitude to sex had not been harmed. The sisters had never been made to feel shame. In another era I could imagine

Petra having a second career as a child therapist. She had an intuitive grasp of human dilemmas and could convey comfort and affection without the need for many words. She was devoid of condescension, brilliantly combined self-mockery with a subtle self-assurance, and was, without a doubt, one of the most knowing people I have ever met. LOTTIE HOARE

Petra Helen Gill, weaver: born London 18 August 1906; married 1930 Denis Tegetmeier (died 1987; two sons, four daughters); died Limpley Stoke, Wiltshire 1 January 1999.

George Steedman

the most remarkable characters ever to find a niche in the BBC, doing far more than most to make its reputation resound so

splendidly around the world. Soon after the Second World War he was responsible for the creation of the BBC's European Service. The Continent - then starved of information and intellectual sustenance - presented a unique broadcasting opportunity. Steedman took on the challenge. The news service was to be a sort of Third Programme aimed at an important audience of socalled "opinion formers". Intellectual probity and freedom of expression - a freedom which the home-based services were never quite able to achieve - were the watchwords.

Of course it was highly educative. George Steedman was always a teacher Both his parents were teachers, his wife Nan, also a teacher, was the daughter of his old headmaster. Steedman did his teaching via a microphone, but he also taught his own broadcasters how to broadcast, on the basis of talking one to one, to be an invited guest in someone else's sitting room. He was a Yorkshireman born and bred but quite unlike the sturdy salt-of-the-earth Yorkshire stereotype. Perhaps Emily Bronte got it right - he was prickly, difficult, temperamental.

He won a scholarship to Cambridge, reading English and gaining a First at Selwyn College, His college was then known as a training ground for young clergymen, something Steedman resented. This was one of his silly resentments, like being born in 1916, doomed from the outset. War indeed came before there was any opportunity of establishing himself in a career. He went into the Field Security Police, a sort of Intelligence unit, and was badly wounded. Recovering, his educative bent reasserted itself with a period in the Forces Education Services, It was an easy step to the BBC.

The European Service was situated in Bush House, a far more promising place to be in than Broadcasting House. It was within walking distance of Parliament, theatres, galleries, university colleges including the London School of Economics, Fleet Street, which then held every journalist of note. Bush House itself was full of a dazzling mix of continental refugees, Russian, French, German, Italian, a hub of post-war intellectual excitement.

The European Service under Steedman's guidance lived up to BBC European Service this. Every subject was covered at its highest level and best. He was the first to employ a full-time science correspondent, a subject only just beginning in journalism. Francis Crick was an early contributor before DNA and the Nobel Prize hit the headlines; Bruno Bronowski began his broadcasting career under Steedman. The arts were not forgotten, Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth were other firsts for the service and Matthew Smith gave it his only venmy receiving offers from major ture into broadcasting. Lord Denning contributed s series on justice and morality, Bertrand Russell spoke Far from binding me with lifelong contracts - at a time when record on power and Aneurin Bevan on loy-

These people came not for the money, nor the kudos, but often for the stimulation which George Steedman provided, the dialectic argument which made brains buzz. He could be brutal, even cruel, in his contempt for any failure to come up to his standards. Many was a slammed door that reverberated after angry departures from his office. But he also enjoyed an intense lovalty and gratitude from those that worked closest with him and many went on to fine careers. Joan Yorke and Joanna Scott Moncrieff became pillars of the BBC's

forever popular Woman's Hour. Steedman was never a conventional "corporate" personality. Not for him the convivial canteen lunch or office intrigue at the club bar. He would sit long hours brooding at his desk and if interrupted might treat

GEORGE STEEDMAN was one of the intruder to a lecture on how to make an atom bomh in three easy stages. In the course of giving an annual report he explained at length the working of lavatory cisterns.

He paid the price for his eccentricity and his lack of collegiality. He was sidelined into becoming head of Overseas Regional Services (suffering from the acronym Horse), looking after the broadcasting needs of odds and ends that could not be fitted in elsewhere, the South Sea Islands, the Caribbean, the Falklands, before their hour of prominence. Meanwhile other parts of the corporation were casting covetous empire-building eyes at the European Service, which was soon to be subsumed into an allembracing World Service.

Later Steedman moved on to yet another largely anonymous depart-ment of the BBC, the Transcription Service, a mainly marketing job, the selling of BBC programmes globally. It became one of the BBC's biggest money-spinners and because Steedman was always an innovator he initiated new programmes. His Topical Tapes, a 15-minute news magazine, is still mentioned with admiration. He became the Maecenas of the leading musical festivals, telling world-famous players bow to improve their performance. He mvented popular quiz games like My Word and My Music which were lifted into the home services.

The fact that the Transcription Service was selling to the North American market presented Steedman with one of his major achievements. Broadcasting technology in the numerous American stations which clamoured for BBC output was state-of-the-art, far ahead of the BBC. Steedman called on BBC Engineering to make his service competent to cope with this new



technical challenge. He surprised the BBC engineers with his scientific know-how and modernising zeal. Improved BBC transmission throughout the entire corporation was the result.

On retirement he continued to provide information world-wide with a weekly series of his own. About Britain. It was a buge success and won him far mail from around the globe. The series bowever came to an abrupt stop with yet another of Steedman's spats with BBC authority. He and his wife returned to their roots in the North Yorkshire moors to Newton-upon-Rawcliffe, the name itself redolent of Steedman's love of science and his fierce uncompromising temperament. But it was not like that at all. He mellowed wrote poetry, went to church and lent his garden beautified by Nan's expert botanical care for the vicarage fete.

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After a programme once a distinguished guest said: "The trouble with you, George, is you're a scientist manque." The other distinguished guest put in: "No, no, you're a priest manqué." Steedman replied: "Don't you make a manque out of me." Anybody who tried did so at their peril.

ANNE SYMONDS

George Steedman, broadcaster: born Catterick, North Yorkshire 9 March 1916; married 1945 Nan Sounders (two sons, one daughter); died Malton, North Yorkshire 31 December 1998.

Mike Steyn

MIKE STEYN played an unusual part in the musical life of this country, particularly in the folk revival of the Sixties and Seventies.

While other record companies and producers responded to public interest by promoting the forgotten or neglected treasures of Anglo-American folk music, Steyn went beyoud the confines of the West, to Africa and Asia. He launched a number of outstanding musicians and singers, some celebrated in their own countries but unknown in Britain, others new and obscure, and launched their international careers. Their music inspired and influenced musicians and singer-songwriters as diverse as Paul Simon and Peter Gabriel, and bands such as Genesis and Fairport Convention.

A fine musician himself, with an unerring ear for tone and coiour. Steyn sensed the potential of artists on first hearing them. His high musical standards and his unusual disregard for commercial gain made Tangent Records, the company he started in the late Sixties, a badge of quality. He distributed his productions world-wide through record companies with aims and reputations similar to his own, among them the distinguished Harmonia Mundi in France and Lyrichord in the United States. As a result many of his recordings have endured and become classics of the genre.

at the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino

Born in South Africa, Steyn showed a precocious aptitude for music. He was virtually self-taught until a hursary brought him to England to study composition and conducting at the Guildhall School of Music, where he was spotted as potentially a star conductor. Among his contemporaries was Jacqueline Dupré, whom be conducted playing Elgar's Cello Concerto with the Guildhall Orchestra. His energy and passionate love of music inspired the members of the orchestra and won him a second grant to continue his studies for a further two years. In 1958 he was one of 92 candi-

dates taking part in the Morley College Conducting Competition, and won - the chief adjudicator was Sir John Barbirolli, who encouraged him personally. Steyn's success provided him with a year's study at the Hochschule für Musik in Berlin, and led to engagements with the BBC regional orchestras, the London Philharmonic and the London Symphony Orchestras.

By then married, with a child, he found that the precarious life of a roying conductor was not providing him with a regular income and the security he needed, and he took a job conducting the orchestra for the musical Oliver!. For a few years he tried to combine such regular theatre work with orchestral concerts, but the two seemed incompatible.



Tangent Records

Though a dedicated musician. Steyn was too modest and independent to promote himself in the competitive world of international conducting, yet he was not content with musicals - his interest was in the works of classical composers, in particular Mozart, Beethoven and Mahler So he left the profession to work as an independent record producer learning the ropes from Lionel Segal, the director of Strike Records,

then a well-known folk music label. His owo first records were with the northern comedians Blaster Bates and Peter Mallony (who had been a Trappist monk), and they became huge hits, particularly the

Blaster Bates series of LPs which are still selling. Steyn could have continued in that field and made s great deal of money, but he was never motivated by money - he followed his heart. With the proceeds from these first hits he started Tangent Records. Tangent's first three records

were of Ethiopian folk music, recorded in Ethiopia hy the late Jean Jenkins, then the Curator of Music at the Horniman Museum. Other recordings followed, and in 1976 he released a box of six LPs of music from all over the Islamic world, to coincide with the World of Islam Festival in London - it is now a collectors' item. There followed seven records of Scottish music with Edinburgh University, three LPs with Mustafa Tettiy-Addy, the Ghanaian drummer and one of Africa's bestloved musicians, and many more some 120 recordings of music from all over the world.

When he sensed that his job was done, be left to return to classical music and composition, handing over Tangent's distribution to Topic Records, one of Britain's oldest and best folk labels. Unfortunately he also discovered he had cancer. He devoted the same single-minded effort he had deployed in his work to combat his illness, and succeeded in winning long periods of remission be was given six months by his doctors and lived six years.

I met Mike Steyn with Jean Jenkins in 1969, and sang him a Persian folksong. He gave me a contract for an LP. We recorded Persian Love Songs and Mystic Chants almost a cappella, with just a touch of flute and hand-drum, in his studio - the crypt of a church in Holland Road, London, A second record followed. of English songs, which led to record companies.

producers were taking options even alty, Hugh Gaitskell on equality. on their artists' children, in case they became musicians too - he let me go, saying that his label was too specialised for me. He had the true artist's generosity and humility, and we remained friends. I never released a record without first consulting him. I made one more record with him From East to West, a fusion of Per-

sian and Western music, produced and arranged by Paul Buckmaster the arranger of, among others, Eliton John and Mick Jagger). Both these records of Persian traditional songs are still extant on Tangent in Britain and on Lyrichord in the US. SHUSHA GUPP

Michael Eugene Steyn, record producer: born Cape Town 23 July 1931; married 1956 Wendy Munton (one son); died London 3 January 1999.

Irene Serkin



FAMILIES DON'T come more musical than those that surrounded Irene Serkin during the course of her long life, both the one she grew up in and the one she created. She was born Irene Busch in Vi-

enna in 1917, the daughter of Adolf Busch, who was perhaps the supreme representative of the Ger-man school of string playing, and of Frieda Gruters, issue of another family of outstanding musical ability. For nearly six decades, Irene was the wife of Rudolf Serkin, one of this century's most dignified and perceptive pianists. And ber own immediate family boasts the pianist Peter Serkin, the horn-player John Serkin and four musician daughters.

The story of how Irene Busch encountered her husband has a fairytale quality to it. She was only three years old when her father met Tully Potter Collection Rudolf Serkin, then 17, gawky and

nervous, in the apartment of Karl Gombrich (father of Sir Ernst) in Vienna. The two musicians very soon formed a duo-partnership and before long Busch had invited the young pianist to live with his family. At this point Irene, barely past the toddler stage, told Serkin that she would marry him when she grew up - and that is exactly what she did. When Irene reached 17 herself, she and Serkin were wed, in 1935, in Basel. It would be difficult to say that she

grew up anywhere in particular. Berlin, Darmstadt and Switzerland perhaps, but more often than not she would be on tour with her father. travelling the length and hreadth of Europe - and thus, like her husband, she had very little formal education. Adolf Busch was conscious of

his duty to the masterpieces of the Austro-German repertoire (he

example, no fewer than 400 times in the course of his career). But he was implacably opposed to the Nazi regime and, at considerable cost to himself, vowed never to play in Germany as long as the Nazis remained in power. (In this he showed a rather soberer insight than the idealistic Wilhelm Furtwängler, who thought he could defend German music from within the Nazi fold.) The Busches and Serkin, having moved to Switzerland in 1927, thus left Germany permanently in 1933.

The Serkins continued to Philadelphia in 1939 when Rudolf was spoointed to the staff of the Curtis Institute there, first taking over Josef Hofmann's masterclasses and later becoming director of the Institute. Irene's father and mother followed ber to America after s bungled attempt by the Nazis to kidplayed the Beethoven Concerto, for nap Busch and drag him back to Ger-

many this house was temptingly near the German border, Busch got wind of their plans and made sure he was not at home when the Gestapo came to call). United in the States, Irene's fa-

ther, uncle (the cellist Herman Busch) and husband - together with the French flautist Marcel Moyse and his musician son and daughter-in-law, Louis and Blanche Moyse - founded the Mariboro Music Festival in Vermont in 1951; Marlboro was to be the focus of much of the Serkins' life from then on.

Irene Serkin was not herself an outstanding string-player, but she was good enough to play in the Busch Chamber Players from the foundation of the group in 1935. And she would always play violin or viola in Mariboro concerts, often in music written by her father. She was an enabler. She and her husband offered

helping hands to countless young musicians over the decades, and she played a prominent role in the musical life of the community around her. The warmth that was a marked feature of the atmosphere at Marlboro was owed in good measure to her.

Her end was as charmed as her life. She had suffered from heart problems but had shown no particular discomfort when she went shopping to find a Christmas tree to adorn the family hearth. Returning home, she took to bed for her usual nap and died peacefully in her sleep.

MARTIN ANDERSON Irene Busch, musician: born Vien

na 21 June 1917; married 1935 Rudolf Serkin (died 1994; two sons, five daughters, and one daughter deceased); died Guildford, Vermont 1 December 1998.

VEEKEND REVIEW

te intruder to a lecture of the homb in the ake an atom bomb in the ages. In the course of giving tal report ine explained at le working of lavatory on He paid the price for his ty and his lack of colle as sidelined into become verseas Regional Service g from the acronym Horse g after the broadcasting ids and ends that could not elsewhere, the South Series e Caribbean, the Falkland eir hour of prominence Men her parts of the corporation isting covetous empirely es at the European Service as sooo to be subsumed in the nbracing World Service Later Steedman movedon tother largel; anonymous ent of the BBC, the Transporters a mainly marketing in lling of BBC programms to 1t became one of the BBCs oney spinners and because an was always an innovatirh ited new programmes His h ipes, a 15-minute news maps became the Maerenas at ading musical testivals te orld-famous players how b. ove their performance Be nted popular quiz sames les and My Music which ed into the name service. The fact that the Transmi rvice was selling to the fe nerican market presented an with one of his majoradis ents. Broadcasting technolog a numerous American sa tich clamoured for BB(at is state-of-the-transmissing 3C. Steedman caned on BB: teering to make his senion tent to cope with the



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discount of when the west to the a Christian n the family hourth fields is the took to bed by he as and god reside tilly in by and MARTIN ANDERSO e Brasen - wine che parelle.

11 Decemen 1928





At the unveiling ceremony last December for Vela Zanetti's restored mural 'Mankind's Struggle for Peace' at the United Nations headquarters, his son José Zanetti de las Cuevas addressed UN officials including the Secretary-General, Kofi Annan

AP / Marty Lederhandler

José Vela Zanetti

JOSE VELA Zanetti was best known for his vast mural La Lucha del Hombre por La Paz ("Mankind's Struggle for Peace"), created in 1953 for the United Nations headquarters in New York. The artist was in exile at the time, and Spain under Franco was not even a member of the UN.

Less than a month ago, the newly restored mural was rededicated by the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, in a ceremony attended by the artist's son, José. Vela Zanetti, deeply moved by the honour, which he described as one of the great satisfactions of his life, kept photographs of the occasion beside him in his last days.

He had been chosen by the Guggenheim Foundation to create a mural for the UN on the theme of peace in an international competition in 1952. The

ravages of war and concentration of my father, along with exile, made more camps and depicts people pulling together to rebuild a shattered world, Painted in hlues and reddisb browns, it was inaugurated in the corridor outside the UN Security Council chambers.

Vela Zanetti was born in 1913 in the small northern town of Milagros, oear Burgos; when he was still very young. the family moved to the provincial capital. Leon, where he began artistic training. He won a public scholarship to study art in Florence in 1933, but Franco's revolt and the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War disrupted his plans, and the artist later described the years

that followed as "long and full of trials". He fled into exile in 1939. His father, boss of a provincial slaughterhouse, had been shot by Fascists in 1936 in the opening days of the war, leaving a permanent of me than normal circumstances would have. His death forced me to explore the limits of my abilities, to be a son

Vela Zanetti settled in the Dominican Republic, where he produced hundreds of murals, of farmworkers and rural scenes, many of them on a heroic scale. In 1949 he was appointed director of the Fine Arts School of Santo Domingo. He won a John Simon Guggenheim scholarship for young Hispanic artists that enabled him to travel to New York, and he later lived in Mexico, Colombia and

worthy of his father."

One important work painted in the Dominican Republic hung in the assembly hall of the UN's International Labour Office in Geneva from 1959 to 1968. The untitled painting showed

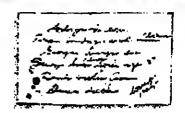
huilding and farming, and remains in the ILO's collection.

Vela Zanetti returned to Spain in 1962, to the bouse in Milagros where be had been born, and painted all day long, "1 get up at dawn to benefit from the light, and I stop painting at dusk. Mural painting has given me this discipline."

He is best known in his own country for portraits of peasants, still-lifes, Castillian landscapes and religious works. In 1997 he donated 57 paintings and other works to a foundation in León that bears his name. One of his last works was a portrait of the Catalan architect Antonio Gaudi.

ELIZABETH NASH

Jose Vela Zanetti, painter: born Milagros Spain 27 May 1913: married Esperanza de las Cuevas (one son, one daughter);



LITERARY NOTES

A child's pleasure in making flesh creep

popularity of Roald Dahl. The reason for this might be obvious at first. He writes with unselfconscious exuberance, his stories move at a manic pace and are full of a mixture of exaggerations and simple jokes: "China's so full of Wings and Wongs everytime you wing you get a wong number.

At the same time Dahl relishes the disgusting. He makes great play of a child's pleasure in making the flesh creep. Thus we are ca-joled into reacting against sentimentality:

It is only when the parents begin telling us about the brilliance of their revolting offspring that we etart shouting Bring us a basin We're going to be sick"

There is palpable pleasure in such an exaggerated feeling. The Twits' revolting habits are described in lurid detail. The idea of crunching the bones of young ehildren returns as a theme again and again:

I'm off to find a yummy child for lunch, Keep listening and you'll hear the bones go crunch, He cannot resist reiterating,

with glee, the pleasures of the revolting. I'll bet if you saw a fat juicy lit-tle child paddling in the water

r there at this very mom you'd gulp him up in one gollop.

When the Enormous Crocodile at last meets his match it ends up heing swung round and round and being thrown into the sun - "And

THERE IS no doubting the he was sizzled up like a

All harmless fun? One of the pervasive features of Dahl's books is the sense of manic drive coupled with a delight in the nastiness of human beings. The books are, in fact, driven by halfdisguised anger. This might seem like a righteous anger at injustice but is a deeper seated outcry at the human

The parents of James of The Giant Peach) are quickly disposed of

condition.

Their troubles were over in a jiffy. They were dead and gone in 35 seconds flat. This leaves others to deal

with unhappiness as best they can; in the shape of a world full of men "as nasty and mean ... as any you could meet". Dahl talks of the life of a writer as "absolute hell", where he lives in "a world of fear". This is not just the fear of running out of ideas but of a deep sense of injustice

and anger. Behind the humour the books convey great conflict. They are about overcoming authority, with rebellion emerging out of a sophisticated coospiracy. The themes depend on "us"

against "them". Them" is both no one in particular and everyone. The hatred derives from a sense of revenge and punishment: punishing one or both of them each time they were beastly to her made her life more or less

Dahl himself is aware of this fascination with pain, even if it is of an exaggerated kind. In his autobiography Boy he writes

you will be wondering why I lay so much emphasis upon school beatings in these pages. The answer is that I cannot help it .. I have never got over it.

The ahiding sense of anger and shame and the grievance against Dr Coggan, later the Archhishop of Canterbury for relishing inflicting pain on pupils, is palpable. The whole book, however, is full of pain, of boils and scalpels. and canings and humiliations, either suffered or directed against others.

At first sight the manic energy of Dahl seems quite simple and unselfconscious. But it is driven by something deeper ... When we recognise that children enjoy all the relish of exaggeration we should not forget why this should be so. The pain that Dahl expresses is recognised by his readers because they also share it. Whereas Enid Blyton sceks escape from trauma by creating a perfect, safe and ordered world, Dahl rushes into a wild alternative set of images that use anger as a means of overcoming suffering.

Cedric Cullingford is the author of 'Children's Liternture and Its Effects'

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, Marriages & DEATHS

DEATHS

LINTOTT: On 7 January 1999, peacefully at home, aged 60 years, Duvid John, consultant radiologist of Roundhay, Leeds, much loved by his wife Anne, sons Francis, Tim and Matthew, hrother William and wider family and friends. Funeral service and committal in St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Shafteshury Avenue, Roundhay, Leeds LS8 2DS, on Thursday 14 January at 1pm, followed by private cremation. Flowers may be sent if desired, or donations if preferred will be shared between St Gemma's Hospice, Leeds, Shelter and Sylvia Wright X-ray Appeal, India. All may be sent c/o John P. Tempest Funeral Service, 46 Harrogate Road, Chapel Allerton, Leeds LS7 4LA. Telephone 0113 239 2700. LINTOTT: On 7 January 1999,

LOCHHEAD: Peacefully, on 6
January 1999, Alexander Cargill
Lochhead, of Ampibill, aged 71
years. Much-loved husband of
Katie and father of Angus and
Karen. Fimeral service takes
place on Saturday 16 January,
10.15am at Norse Road Crematorium, Bedford. Flowers or
donatings for Cancer Research donations for Cancer Research may be sent clo Neville Funeral Service, The Old Church, Flitwick Road, Ampthill, Bed-fordshire MK45 2NT; telephone

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

TODAY: The Household Caval ry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st **Battalion Welsh Guards** mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Coldstream Guards. TOMORROW: The Household Cavairy Mount ed Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse

Guards, 10am.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Mr P. L. Jones and Miss S. M. Tann The engagement is announced between Paul Idris, son of Dr and Mrs Bob Jones, of Horsington, Somerset, and Stephanie Marie, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Tann, of St Austell, Cornwall,

Mr D. H. Jones and Dr V. S. Ramrakha The engagement if announced between David Hugh, son of Dr and Mrs Bob Jones, of Horsington, Somerset, and Vandana, daughter of Dr Sat and Dr Urmila Ramrakha, of Nairobi.

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Major Derek Allhusen, farmer and Olympic equestrian, 85; Sir John Alliott, High Court judge, 67; Dame Elizabeth Anson (Lady Anson), former chairman, Association of District Councils of England and Wales, 68: Miss Joan Baez, singer, 58; Mr Hugh Bayley MP, 47: Miss Mary Bennett, former Principal, St Hilda's, Oxford, 86; Mr Paul Bergne, former ambassador to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, 62; Sir John Buckley, former chairman, Davy Corporation, 86; Mrs Christine Crawley, MEP, 49; Mr Clive Dunn, actor and comedian, 77: Sir Tony Durant, former MP, 71; Sir Graham Eyre QC, a Recorder of the Crown Court. 68; Mr Graham Fletcher, show jumper, 48: Father Benedict Green, theologian, 75; Mr Terry Hands, theatre and opera director, 58; Mr David Holbrook, writer, 76; Mr Leslie

Holliday, former chairman, John Laing Construction, 78; Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys, Wolfson Research Professor of the Royal Society, Leicester University, 49; Mr Simon Jervis, Historic Buildings Secretary, National Trust, 56; Mr Herbert Lom, actor, 82; Mr Michael Nicholson, television newscaster and reporter, 62; Sir Harry Ognall QC, High Court judge, 65; Miss Joely Richardson, actress, 34; Mr David Smith, cricketer, 43; Mrs Vicky Tuck, Principal, Cheltenham Ladies College. 46; Viscount Uliswater, former government minister, 57; Mr David Walker, High Commissioner to Bangladesh 59; Mr Geoffrey Wragg, racehorse trainer, 69; Miss Susannah York, actress, 57.

TOMORROW: Sir Walter Bodmer, Principal, Hertford College, Oxford, 63; Sir Robin Chichester-Clark, former MP and government minister, 71; Mr Tom Clarke MP. Minister for Film and Tourism. 58: Mr Derek Hammond-Stroud, operatic baritone, 73; Sir Derek Hornby, former chairman, **British Overseas Trade** Board, 69; Mr Thomas Hutton, former chief executive of Total Oil, 78; Mr Clive Jones, chief executive, Carlton Television, 50; Miss Dorothy Malone, actress 74; Sir Robert Marshall, former chairman of the National Water Council, 79; Dr Peter Mathias, former Master, Downing College. Cambridge, 71; Sir David Miers, former ambassador to the Netherlands, 62; Slr David Neuberger, High Court judge, 50, Mr Denis Peach, former Chief Charity Commissioner, 71; Mr Alan Protherce, journalist and

Rodgers, actor, 66; Mr Freddie Starr. comedian, 55; Mr Rod Stewart, rock singer, 54; Mrs Valerie Strachan. chairman, Board of Customs and Excise, 59: Sir Stephen Wall, United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the European Union, 52; Miss Marjorie Wallace, chief executive, Sane, 54.

ANNIVERSARIES TODAY: Births: John Jervis,

Earl of St Vincent, admiral,

1735; Lascelles Abercrombie poet and critic, 1881; Dame Gracie Fields (Grace Stansfield), singer and actress, 1898; George Balanchine. choreographer, 1904; Richard Milhous Nixon, 37th US president, 1913. Deaths: Caroline Lucretia Herschel astronomer, 1848; Katherine Mansfield (Beauchamp) (Kathleen Middleton Murry), writer, 1923; Karl Mannheim, sociologist, 1947; Waldo David Frank, novelist, 1967. On this day, in Britain, Income Tax was introduced by Pitt the Younger, the rate being two shillings in the pound, 1799; Sir Humphry Davy's safety lamp was first used in a coal mine, 1816; the first trial flight of Concorde took place, Bristol, 1969. Today is the Feast Day of St Berhtwald of Canterbury, Saints Julian and Basilissa, St Marciana of Rusuccur, St Peter of Sebastea and St Waningus or Vaneng.

TOMORROW: Births: Dr George Birkbeck, educationist, 1776; Alexei Nikolayevich Tolstoy, novelist and playwright, 1883; Dame Barbara Hepworth, sculptor, 1903. Deaths: Carolus Linnaeus, botanist, 1778; Samuel Colt. gunsmith, 1862; Samuel Dashiell Hammett, detective story writer, 1961; Elspeth Joseeline Huxley (Grant), writer, 1997. On this day: the penny post was begun (although the first stamps were not available until 6 May), 1840; the London Underground Metropolitan Railway) system was started, 1863; the tomb of Cleopatra was discovered, 1890. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Agatho, pope, St Dermot or Diarmaid, St John the Good, St Marcian of Constantinople, St Peter Orseolo and

LECTURES

St William of Bourges.

TODAY National Gallery: Lynda Stephens, "New Beginnings (ii): Bordone, Pair of Lovers", 12 noon. Victoria and Albert Museum: Norbet Jopek, "One by One: European commemorative medals from the Great War 1914-1918", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Pleasure from Rough Art, Improvisation and Risk", 1pm. British Museum: Nigel Barley, "The Golden Sword: Raffles and the East", 11.30am; Delia Pemberton, "Talking Pictures: looking at Egyptian hieroglyphs", 1.30pm National Portrait Gallery: Ann Kodicek, "Shapes for

TOMORROW Victoria and Albert Museum: Yasmin Hales, "The Role of the Indian Artist", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Identified Figures in Well-Known Works", 2.30pm. National Portrait Gallery Paul Webb, "John Buchan",

Spaces: Henry Moore's

public art", 3pm.

Night of Power THIS YEAR the Muslim holy only be amassing huge hlessings as we maintain our sobri-

month of Ramadan started with, literally, a hang, Iraqi Muslims looking for the crescent moon to mark the beginning of the fasting month saw instead American Tomahawk missiles and British Tornado fighters. Both President Bill Clinton and the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, said they then stopped the Western Night of Power hecause of "the holy month".

Obviously intended to portray a bumane and sensitive dimension to the devastating and repulsive bombing raids, this bit of news spin had Muslims everywhere in derision. For there is nothing unholy in doing battle with your enemy during the holy month. One of the most crucial battles in early Islam, that of Badr, was fought during Ramadan - as was the Yom Kippur war led by Anwar Sadat in 1973.

In fact, Ramadan is the most combative month in the Muslim calendar. The sourm (fast) is actually a declaration of war against the carnal soul, the alnafs al-ammarah of the Holy Book. In fasting, the rebellious tendencies of the carnal soul are gradually dampened and pacified through a systematic submission of these tendencies to the divine will, for at every moment of hunger the soul of the Muslim is reminded that in order to obey divine commands the carnal passions must go unheeded. That is also why the fast does not include only food but also abstention from every form of lust and carnal passion.

According to scholars the rigours of Ramadan should really not be that difficult for a believer. Tradition has it that during the month the Devil is shackled, making it relatively easy for the soul, imprisoned by hunger and thirst, to engage in good works. My local imam has pointed out the particular "blessing" of being a Muslim observing Ramadan in Britain this year. Not only are the fasting hours relatively short but we are performing our obligatory abstinence right in the middle of the festive season. Surely, in a month in which the Lord has promised manifold re-

wards for acts of piety, we can

ety and temperance in a sea of crapulence and gourmandism.

Muslims seek their

For a believer Ramadan is a month full of divine gifts, bence the salutation Ramadan Kariim - "Ramadan the generous". Life is normally organised around a set of rituals that aim to maximise on the special spiritual rewards on offer. It is a time during which one is encouraged to recite the Holy Book, to remember God and

participate in special prayers. The central core of the holy month, however, remains the Laylat al-Qadr, the Night of Power (or Destiny). This commemorates the night in the

FAITH REASON

FUAD NAHDI

The holy month of Ramadan brings blessings to the devout but a rather less comfortable condition for the impeached Bill Clinton and an embattled Tony Blair

year AD 610 in which the Koran descended, in its entirety, into the soul of the Prophet. In that night the Angel Gabriel first spoke to the Prophet, the Koran was revealed, and the divine mission began. In a season preoccupied with sales and shopping the Night of Power is the ultimate bargain for a believer. The Holy Book in chapter 97 describes the Night of Power as "better than a thousand months ... peace until the rising of the dawn": for sheer spiritual value there is nothing to match it in the entire universe.

Nobody really knows for certain on which date this holiest night falls, Scholars say this ambiguity is a secret wisdom to Muslim magazine 'Q-News'

prompt the believer to devote himself completely to God during every night of this month in the hope of coinciding with that night which has been kept deliberately obscure. Muslims might desire to watch out for the mystical night but in Britain few can practically do so: little of "ordinary life" changes during the holy month, making the prospect of staying awake during the night possible only if there was no work or college the next day.

The scholars have, bowever, narrowed down the odds with most holding the opinion that the Night of Power is in the last 10 nights of Ramadan, which are therefore are taken to be particularly holy. If that is the case, then in 12 hunar months' time the eve of the new millennium might be the very night in which the heavens are, literally, set alight by the splendour and mercy of God.

To have completed the fast of Ramadan is to have undergone a rejuvenation and rebirth which prepares each Muslim to face another year with determination to live and act according to the divine will. The fast also bestows a spiritual perfume upon the human soul whose fragrance can be perceived long after the period of abstinence has come to an end. It provides for the soul a source of energy upon which it feeds throughout the year. The holy month bas therefore been called mubarak, "the blessed". one in which the grace or barakah of God flows upon the Islamic community and rejuvenates its deepest sources of life and action.

Those who seek to violate the boliness can expect the opposite. For Bill Clinton, Ramadan has brought impeachment; for Tony Blair it has brought his first major crisis in government. Which makes particularly apposite the fact that some scholars (including my local imam) believe the Night of Power might not be in these last 10 days but could be the first night of the month - the same day the "Western Night of Power" unfolded on the skies of Iraq.

Fuad Nahdi is the editor of the

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

broadcaster, 65; Mr Anton

The race against time

Radically old-fashioned - that's how Stephen Poliakoff describes his latest TV drama. What can he mean? By David Benedict

irst of all, clearly, I don't bave a video camera. And for the first time in my life it would have helped having one. Bit bloody late to buy one, this being the last afternoon of my life." Timothy Spall's pudgy face looms into the lens. He's recording the extraordinary events of his final days and, 13 seconds into the BBC's new drama Shooting the Past, you're hooked.

As Spall nibbles on a slice of toast and girds his storytelling loins, he whets our appetite still further, explaining that his story is of vital importance because it can happen to anyone: "Anyone who has suddenly lost their joh or house or even business, or just had someone promoted above them. Anyone who knows how that feels, this is for you."

This vivid opening sequence is not only arresting, it's a startlingly clear statement ni intent by the writer and director Stephen Poliakoff. He not only tightens the narrative screw with the threat of Spall's impending desth, he alerts you to the drama's themes: the quirkiness of individuals, the collision hetween past and future, the responsibilities of individuals and, above all. the recording of history. Shooting the Past is a race against time, set in an anachronistic library housing a priceless collection of millions of historic photographs, overseeo by a skeleton staff headed by the cooly authoritative Lindsay Duncan and the eccentric, cardigan-wearing Spall. When an American husinessman (Liam Cunningham) arrives, announcing that he has bought them up and that the collection

must be sold, opposing worlds collide.
"I would love it if people said it was old-fashloned," heams Poliakoff, enveloped in a comfy, wing-backed chair in his Islington. London home. His brief was to write something that people wouldn't easily forget - "Quite difficult," he says, grinning over his understatement - but it led him back of photographs

Although the piece is, in his own words, "dialogue-heavy - there's no reason wby TV can't do dialogue", pictures are at its heart. There are two pivotal sequences vaguely reminiscent of the classic scene in Antonioni's Sixties film Blow-Up, where we watch David Hemmings discover a murder in a series of pictures he has taken by 1989, however, he wrote: "Cinema is genaccident. Here, we and the characters gaze at a succession of photographs brought together by Duncan to show to Cunningham. The first tells the true story of a Jewish girl in pre-War Germany but, although ber tale rations in most of my plays." Ten years is extremely moving. Pollakoff isn't just out later, that statement is supported by these the plot and, even as we respond to the pic-ing the Past is an exploration of charac-when be was just 19. He's always regard-



to his lifelong fascination with the power Stephen Poliakoff: 'I've deliberately tried to slow television down, but to make it compelling'

tures, we're aware that Duncan is manipulating the story for ber own ends. It's a gratifyingly complex scene.

Writers are usually reticent or downright evasive about their objectives but Poliakoff is unusually forthcoming. His early stage work has been described as cinematic. In erally the wrong medium to try to reveal complex character changes or to attempt to operate dramatically on two or three levels at once. Both are clearly central aspi-

between film and theatre. "I was determined to write something with long, sustained scenes, the sort of thing one can only do on television... you can in theatre but in a different way. I wanted to do something that wasn't trying to be cinema yet would use the power of great acting in close-up. I've deliberately tried to slow television down, but to make it compelling."

To that extent, it genuinely is old-fashioned. "Radically, I bope," asserts Poliakoff. That's a bardly surprising word for someone whose work has been political with to evoke pathos. It's a crunch moment in two telling sequences. Ultimately. Shoot- small "p" since his first play back in 1971

ter and circumstance in a medium poised ed his writing as political but not as in agitprop or even as part of the Seventies wave of writers who believed Britain was teetering on the brink of revolutionary change.

"I've tried not to write within conventions or genres and to be provocative about showing the nature of whatever world in a different way," he says. "That, I think, is a political act."

His early plays, like Hitting Town or City Sugar, dwelt in an urban world of neon and concrete populated by disaffected youth. He gradually moved further afield, winning a buge aodience for Caught on a Train, a gripping, one-off BBC drama about a man who travels to Vienna accidentally, ac-

companied by an elderly, terrifyingly austere Viennese woman memorably played by Peggy Ashcroft. Then, in 1984, he wrote Breaking the Silence, based on his grandfather, an inventor who dressed as if for the opera and travelled on his own train. All this in Leninist Russia.

His most famous work, however, is his 1991 film, which has been something of a calling card ever since. Close My Eyes was about an incestuous relationship between brother and sister Clive Owen and Saskia Reeves during the last gasp of Eighties greed. It was set in Docklands and the bewitchingly beautiful Home Counties. That sense of place, the physical and political

context, is his hallmark. If Pinter hadn't al-ready used the title, be could have called any number of his works Landscape.

Place and safety within any given society are obviously key Jewish concerns, so does the literal and metaphorical importance of location stem from Poliakoff being

"That's never been put to me," he says surprised. "I think it may be." Yet his London upbringing was only Jew-ish. He'd been sent to an extremely Anglican Surrey prep school where he was the only Jew. "On Sundays we all had to turn to face the altar and say the Creed and everyone would look at me because I didn't know what to say. It was a powerful reminder of being separate. I always felt slightly apart. " Discomfitting, but no bad thing for a writer, and it had a powerful effect. "I was there for five years and was pretty unhappy. It gave me a terror of authority.

That, too, continually resurfaces in his writing, the tension between being connected to and separate from institutions, structures and authorities. "Yes," he muses, "I write about fear quite a tot." All this comes together in Talk of the City, his fascinating recent RSC hit, about to transfer to the Young Vic. In the far-off land of 1937 BBC Light Entertainment, a happygo-lucky crooner and comedy man becomes involved in dangerously subversive ideas about what was happening to Jews

Period plays are, of course, as much about the time they are written in as the era in which they're set. "As we're about to burst into a realm of thousands of channels, now seemed the right time to do it." In 1937 the BBC had only one channel, which was even broadcast across America - "Imagine Cosualty being beamed

across the whole of the United States!" be giggles, gleefully - but it was experiencing a similar reign of management terror and control as the current corporation.

"I'm very interested in the power some people have over others. We're living in a very controlling world and all sorts of people no longer know what's going on. In Shooting the Past, someone comes in from the outside world, bashes through the door and says, 'You've got to come under this discipline'. That has to be resisted." He concedes that it's difficult to see where that resistance is going to come from. "But then, nothing ever runs in straight lines," be remarks, confidently. "Something is going to happen."

'Shooting the Past' starts on Sunday on BBC 2; Talk of the City is at the Young Vic from 3 Feb (0171-928 6363); the scripts are published by Methuen

THE BOOKS INTERVIEW



More fun and fewer nuns – Michèle Roberts on food, sex and God

Sometimes, art is an act of survival 300 paintings which capture a short, extraordinary life. LIFE? OR THEATRE? THE WORK OF CHARLOTTE SALOMON Royal Academy of Arts Piccadilly, London Untility January 1999 Mosec 25 December 10171 300 Suoo for further information

Who says the young aren't Romantic?

Naomi Hazlett, Jonathan Deakin, Kate Andrews, Ben Morrow, Kate Milne and Heidi Sutcliffe in common?

Well, precision, intelligence. talent, commitment for a start. For these are all members of the magnificent National Youth Orchestra, star turn of last year's Proms, which has just got 1999 off to a bumper start with concerts in Symphony Hall, Birmingham and Manchester's Bridgewater Hall,

where they played last night. This was a programme that might have warmed the cock-

CLIVE POWELL bas been

WHAT HAVE Jonathan Coffey, a percussive former member of the orchestra: Wagner's "Prelude" and "Liebestod" from Tristan Debussy's La Mer. Strauss's "Death and Transfiguration", and (with close repeated to rapturous waves of applause you could feel heaving, Wembley-like, round Symphony Hall), Ravel's "La Valse". - the apotheosis of not just the

Viennese Waltz, but of almost

So much impresses about this 150-strong mass of fledgling virtuosi – some of whom may well, in time, form the core of our principal orchestras. les of Sir Simon Rattle, himself First, as conductor Yan Pascal

everything.

CLASSICAL NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA/TORTELIER

SYMPHONY HALL BIRMINGHAM Tortelier pointed out, these

gifted youngsters have a mere nine days to amass a programme, making phenomenal demands on musical precision. The thoroughness of their preparation, and their practical and instinctive grasp of giantscale late Romantic scores (they take Mahler in their stride), is breathtaking.

Furthermore, they reveal a

croscopic finer detail but in a macrocosm too, mastering massive structures that could. otherwise handled, be diminished to thin rhetoric.

Lovingly nursed by Tortelier, these cheerful prodigies encompass Wagner's taxing, long flowing epic lines like fully-fledged professionals; likewise in the Debussy, with its endless surge and ebb and flow highlighting individual sections trumpets (marvellously lucid), full hrass chorus (top-notch), the gorgeously intoned, soaring solo violin of leader Jonathan Coffey or the seabird cavorting

dynamic grasp not just of mi- above the foam of flute. piccolo, clarinet - there was much that shone. The opening bars, with their whisper of four beautifully focused harpists, the initial leaf-like rustle of strings, and the first hint of trumpets, was as magical as the finale was deafening; while from the exquisite opening of the Strauss on second violin and violas - a vast harmonised sea of strings heaving dead together (the later scudding fast passages in first and second violins were equally finely co-ordinated) - you might think we had a budding LSO on

Just here and there mexperience sbowed - a slight languidity in the full wind chorus, some string over-relentlessness prior to the bewitching close of the Strauss. But any temptation in rehearsal to rush the "La Valse" was triumphantly resisted in performance. From a dense score sprung a wealth of instrumental clarity flow-rocking bassoons, horns, basa clarinet, trumpets 1+2, eight-strong varied percussion) and a joyous nonchalance. Nobody fluffed. And no-one was late at the dance's dazzling demise. RODERIC DUNNETT

The rhythm and blue flame

Georgie Fame aince 1959, when the promoter Larry Parnes wanted someone to play keyboards in Billy Fury'a band, and to take the beat off him a little in the daft name department. It worked, but just for two years. Fame left with Fury's band, the Blue Flames, and took up residency at the equally unlikely sounding Flamingo Club in Soho, launching a career that has swerved effortlessly in and out of R&B. pop, novelty tunes and hig band jazz ever since. In some ways, Lancashire-born Fame and Geordie Alan Price paved the way for the Northern Soul movement: a northern accent somehow seems more in tune with the loose delivery of African American blues and swing artists. Fame does it so well that the American singer/ pianist Mose Allison looked to the British artist for inspiration when it came to making R&B records.

Fame's band work has a lot going for it. He's powerful and sure-footed enough to be comfortable in front of an 18-piece

GEORGIE FAME QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL LONDON

band. His measured delivery squeezes the emotion out of a standard in a way that must make the likes of Bacharach, Donovan and Lennon and Mc-Cartney proud. You'd want him to sing your song.
The band did a couple of

tunes by themselves before Fame made an authentically showbiz entrance, fingerclicking and air-punching to his first great hit, "Yeh Yeh". Gershwin's "But Not For Me". complete with an ingenious arrangement by the director Steve Gray and a skilful lyricised version of a lovely old Chet Baker trumpet solo, was a masterpiece. Eight tunes in. he sat at the Hammond organ, briefly turning a homage to the Buil's Head Jazz Club into a Jimmy Smith-style soul jazz

shuffle blues. But Fame spent almnst every other moment pacing in yesterday's paper. front of the orchestra.

The cult composer Lalo Schifrin once remarked that he'd told his wife he wanted the BBC Big Band for his next birthday. From the composer of the themes to Bullitt and Mission: Impossible, this was some endorsement. But Mrs Schifrin's lack of generosity was Georgie Fame'a gain. This long-running orcbestra's association with Radio 2 has done nothing to blunt its sharp edges.

There's something about the opening shock blast of a good jazz big band that makes the corners of your mouth curl. Steve Gray looked as if he were trying to suppress a grin all night. The BBC Big Band did it all, from ballads to R&B and a rendition of Fame and Gray's original "City Life" that almost defined swing. All in all it was a worthy

commemoration of a 40-year career, and Georgie Fame proved he still has what people's dads call star quality. A version of this review appeared in later editions of

LINTON CHISWICK

*THE INDEPENDENT



our hands.

and charm. Set on the banks of the Tagus River, the city presents an intriguing combination of the old and the new - its long and varied history can be seen everywhere, and yet it offers all the attractions of a modern metropolis. Once one of the most important ports in the world and capital of the Portuguese Empire, Lisbon's maritima heritage has always been a source of great pride to the city as the Monument to the Discoverers and the impressive Vasco de Gama Bridge illustrate. There are many other attractions to be admired too, including the Belem Tower, St George's Castle and the Hieronymite Monastery. As well as a city of beautiful buildings, you will also find in Lisbon excellent restaurants, fashionable shops and sophisticated nichtlife in its colourful streets. So come with us and discover for yourself the unique quality that makes Lisbon one of the most interesting and beautiful cities in the world.

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VD REVIEW

lmark li Pinter nadrilal the he could have called is works Landscape ty within any given societies as the Jewish concerns a nd metaphorical input stem from Foliakoffbeing

been put to me. he says kit may be rethic Lon. was only Jewish Hed extremal anglican Su. here he was the only lea all had to turn to face the reed and ever one wall se diving know what to erral remir aer of being s feit siighti, apan, bis pad thing in a writer and leffect. If was there for thoring the same for the same inually resurfaces in his nsion leichten being Eseparate som institu

and such writtes. Tes, he built fear quite a lot 'All ter in Take of the City, in CKSC air at our formats Vice. In the late on land of Intertainment, a happy. and comedy man be : daniger: vsb; subversie Was happ-nine to Jens the of the second much try are then in as the The season We we're about

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DM £279 Amures in March November 1999 STATE AND STATE OF THE STATE OF

30 55 33 **55**

sions during David Mellor's conversation with Chris Eubank when the pair of them must have felt like throwing in side chat about operas and symphonies, only to find themcommentators. Across the *Threshold (Classic FM) was billed as the fighter's introduction to classical music, and at two hours duration the programme promised to be more than just a lightweight contest. The formula was simple: Mellor began with the music

listened to a favourite of Eubank's followed by something he thought his guest should get into. And so on. It was a nice idea and both parties seemed the towel. They got together happy to listen to what the last Sunday to have a cosy fire other had to offer. Only trouble was, every time either of them passed a critical remark, the exselves being constantly inter- cited voice of a ringside rerupted by hordes of hoxing porter would cut in with a comment of his own. This was

most distracting. "Did that do anything for you?" asked Mellor, after playing a piece by Johann Strauss "No," replied Chris Eubank. "A very good countering right up-

percut!" bellowed the pundit. These interruptions hapthat started it all for him, then pened time and time again, as

THE WEEK



MAGNUS MILLS

though the two men were beating the living daylights out of each other, rather than taking part in a civilised discussion. Not that Eubank was help-

ing matters much. Very little next three months. The bout seemed to impress him, and even after an aria from Jussi Bjoerling be dared to say, "Tve heard better." An instant later the roving sportscaster threw in his penn'orth: "He's very dangerous with his back to the

British Easy Rider.

ropes like that!" After the news break the continuity announcer joined in the boxing theme, describing Mellor as "going into the ring" with Eubank. This was getting serious. DM was stunned into silence as his opponent subjected him to a dreary poem about the soul Manfully he came back with Brahms' Third was declared a draw.

but he is a multidimensional

I'll tell you what though, pop-pickers, there's a lot of this classical stuff about. Over on Radio 2, Alan Freeman was returning with a new series of Their Greatest Bits, the Tuesday night session in which he plays as many prime cuts as possible. If you're going to try to popularise the classics, then Fluff is definitely the best man for the joh.

"Greetings, music lovers." he began, before giving us some momentous chunks of Verdi, Chopin, Haydn and Beethoven interspersed with Symphony, ordering Eubank orchestral jingles, assorted fanto listen to it once a week for the fares and potted librettos. What Corbett. The hig hully.

of the Top 20, Freeman's speciality. Nonetheless, consolation was at hand in the shape of Mozart's Symphony No 40 in G minor. As the veteran DJ

we didn't get was a run down

pointed out, not only was this a hit in the late 18th century, but it also got to Number 5 in the Pop Charts in April 1971. Wow! And to avoid an outbreak of domestic disputes, he played a snippet of the "other version" which charted the same month, known simply as "Mozart 40".

"Alright?" he asked, in timehonoured fashion. Yes thanks. By the way, in tomorrow's edition of Across the Threshold. David Mellor faces Ronnie EXIT POLL

THE PLAY

Krapp's Last Tape ARTS THEATRE LONDON

24, management consultant, London orest - as tracic to walch as it was to read, it's deeply upsett

deeply moving. I felt a little uncomfortable about some of the slapstick stuff at the start, but I do feel Edward Petherbridge captured Krapp quite well. His reaction to the tapes were exactly how I would expect it to be. I found the whole experience quite moving and quite tragic."

AMANDA 60. translator. TI have never

rha words gel lhe
gisl ot life, very beautitul words.
And beautifully performed. It's
about the important things in life
as you get older, auch as memory
and love. I loved the play atraight

Mc CULLY lecturer. II has wonderful structure and it'a beautifully crafted. What I aboul this

production is how Petherbridge gauges the weight of silence, which is probably one of the hardeat things to achieve on stage. And it was perfect, The ailances in the text was periect, file analogue that Krapp is having with himself and partly hia dialogue with the audience – il's very difficult to pull off. I really enjoyed it, This is up there with the very best."

CRITICAL VIEW

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Try as they might, the film-makers can't make Little Voice any less dowdy and cramped than it looked on stage. This is drama still smeared with greasepaint, and chock-full of exits and entrances that

experience that seems to respect neither its characters nor its audience." grumbled The Guardian, while The Big Issue deemed it "essentially a showcase for the karaoke skills of Jane Horrocks". "A banal showbiz parable redeemed by fine performances." decreed the Daily Moil

the stuff you find at the bottom of glasses on the morning after..." The Stoge said:

"Morley fails to bring life to a piece which

remains resolutely static from beginning to

delivery is mostly too pleasant... One hopes

the rest of the Coward year sets the pulse

end." The Daily Mail noted: "The overall

racing a little faster."

Even with Horrocks's startling

vocal capacity and good performances from the cast. Little Voice brims with cliches and proves better suited to the stage.

Hindered by lackadaisical

performances from Corin

with suitable verve.

An awkward start to

Coward's centenary

celebrations.

Redgrave and Kiki Markham,

Yet another slice of hip-hop

cliche. With song titles likes

"Money, Cash, Hoes" and "Ride

or Die" Jay-Z has failed to rise

Morley fails to infuse the play

OUR VIEW

DEADLY

By FIONA STURGES

ON VIEW

Song of Twilight plays

at the King's Head

Theatre, London N1

until 24 January. For

call 0171-226 1916

Vol 2... Hord Knock

Life (Northwestside)

will be available from

record shops on Mon-

bookings and enquiries

Little Voice is on

general release,

certificate 15.

97 minutes

THE PLAY SONG AT TWILIGHT

THE FILM LITTLE VOICE



THE CIRCUS SHOW CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

Following up his 1998 album In My Life and riding on the success of the chart-hugging single "Hard Knock Life", the East Coast rapper Jay-Z returns with a

Following its immense suc-

cess last year, French-Cana-

dian circus troupe Cirque

du Soleil bring Alegria to

Franco Dragone.

the Albert Hall. Directed by

EXCELLENT

This adaptation of Jim

Cartwright's stage hit tells

the story of an autistic girl

When singing along to Judy

The theatre critic Sheridan

Coward's 1966 play about a

writer forced to confront

his homosexuality when a

young actress produces an

Morley revives Noël

incriminating letter.

whose silence is broken

OVERVIEW

The overwhelming impression left by raps like 'Ride or Die' is depressingly downbeat, a desultory rehearsing of the only narrative available to black American youth today," opined Andy Gill. "Another rap album by a multi-platinum yank who means sod all over here... Who would've thought that the promised land was just a black BMW and a

"One disappointment of Alegno is its

"Ordinary actions are carried out in a

po-facedness," announced Steven Poole,

lot of pointless running about with stiff

arms by the large supporting cast." "I've

shows in the past, but this time I give up."

tried to pick holes in Cirque du Soleil's

bizarre, debased ballet style, and there is a

scream theatre matinee," remarked

Anthony Quinn. 'An oddly depressing

"The ironies surrounding this current

and definition," reflected Paul Taylor.

"Decidedly creaky," carped The Daily

Telegroph, adding, "the dialogue... clearly meant to fizz like the pink champagne

served in the play - has the stale quality of

production are rather more interesting than

the production Itself, which lacks confidence

4 GOOD

mobile phone?" remonstrated Time Out. *Anyone expecting drowsy rap dripped over samples from Broadway musicals will be in for a rude shock. Here is a darker, more aggressive side to Jay-Z." countered The Big Issue, while the Sunday Mirror quipped "The album has more of the clever hip hop that makes us craz-y for Jay-Z."

the most striking features of this marvel-

lous show, the suggestion of effortless

achievement arrived at with a grace that

smiles in the face of gravity," gushed The

above the misogynist, gangsta-obsessed sentiments of American rap. confessed the Evening Stondord, adding "Resistance is useless: go along, be amazed, enjoy it." "The serenity is one of

The humourless excressionism of the Cirque du Soleil will annoy devotees of clofashioned circus slapstick. though their spectacular acrobatics cannot fail to

Alegrin is running at the Albert Hall until 24 January, For bookings and enquiries, call 0171-589 8212

The higher the platforms, the harder the fall

EDWARD It's steep decline from with Christopher Gunning's Gaveglittering sybaritic sodomite to the ston, a lean, insolently edible bit of poor; bare, forked animal who meets rough who emerges here as a his grisly end in the sewers of the Tower of London has never been charted more graphically than in this exhilarating Cherub Company production, which tackles the Brecht adaptation of Marlowe.

Clad in a gold puffoall skirt and precipitous platform heels, Mariano Caligaris's monarch begins as the last word in painted outré transvestism, dancing crotch to crotch

ON NEW Year's Day, the poet

brooding celebs.

One young experimentalist

was complimented by two florid

nymphet ravers named Mag-

nolia and Ginger. Another

gazed wistfully at what she

called "impressive packages" of

The best thing about this

event is that it shows that New

York poetry, with its 350

monthly readings, isn't dead -

though that's not to say it's to-

THERE WERE several occa-

tally alive, either.

the orale rock n'roll poets.

prototype of Orton's Mr Sloane. Vainly quavering a liturgical song as buckets of filth are chucked over him from on high, Caligaris's king ends as a stark naked, shivering mite cific, often petty and unrecorded who lays himself vulnerable to the

erotic nursing of his murderer. Brecht's adaptation is a systematic denial that there was any seamless tragic inevitability to this 19-year a Greek bloodied a man's nose and process. History is created by spe-pretended he was doing it for Helen.

THEATRE THE LIFE OF EDWARD II OF ENGLAND

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS LONDON choices, as he illustrates in the play where it is claimed that the Trojan war, fought over a whore, erupted in

an alehouse on the waterfront where

blood of his genitals and the world was consoled with the Iliad.

Daily Telegraph.

This clinical and ironic angle oo history as a manufactured business. full of botched shots and missed alternatives, is mordantly communicated here. The production presents the play as a sort of Expressionist fairground attraction, replete with whirly platform stage, sardonically incongruous danceband tunes, and a chorus of frockceated bourgeois harons who could

Because of that, Hector died in the have stepped from the canvases of Dix or Grosz and are supplemented hy puppets of themselves. Performed with hard-edged flair and fluency, it is a show that collapses the division between backstage and onstage. Instead of Brechtian captions, cast members race to the front to deliver droll historical time-checks

to the implacable beat of a drum. It's a staging that succeeds in offering colliding perspectives on Edward - a character who achieves belated humanity even as his per- the side of God and that God is al- To 17 Jan. Booking: 0181-741 2255

sistent refusal to abdicate ta switch from the Marlowe) plunges England into a prolonged political crisis and the threat of foreign invasion, On the equivocations of power, the production is, throughout, very witty. For example, the mitre of the Bishop of Winchester is hifurcated and folds over itself, like a rabbit's ears cocked to pick up sounds from opposite directions. This bet-hedging headgear is fitting for a cleric who claims that the Church is always on

FIGMENT FILMS, the

would have the acting

it, Andrew.

McMaster.

Edinburgh

director of the

International

Clifford, director

of the National

Galleries of

Scotland, or

Mark Jones,

Museums of

and the last

Scotland's

thing they want

cultural leaders.

To her credit

is a debate on

National

director of the

challenges of their careers.

Chemists could cash in on

ways, well, on the side of the winner, I last saw this play in an extraordinary hilingual event in Paris where English and French actors performed, in turn, a drastically edited version, like some highbrow Jeux Sans Frontières. It is good now to experience a fuller account in a show which makes a case that this financially threatened company deserves funding to secure its survival.

Hilary Strong has

PAUL TAYLOR

Poetry's not dead yet. But is it alive?

Robbie McCauley asked an NEW YORK "Judience of hundreds in an East Village church to shout out DIARY the names of white people. Taylor Mead, the former Andy Warhol superstar, shouted buck: "Barry White!" This was no Baptist revival meeting gone awry but the 25th anniversary of the all-day reading at St Mark's Poetry Project. An audience of 800, the largest since the Seventies, jammed ALISSA QUART into the church to catch 10 hours of poets - and a generous helping of celebrities cum poet The only New York art form

wannabes such as Patti Smith. pronounced dead as often as Eric Bogosian and Jim Carroll. poetry is painting. For a while, gallery owners and cribcs have It was like a roots consciousness group for New York's most argued that painting is making a comeback, as young painters There were the annual in Brooklyn explore neo-geo poetry fest's staples - down patterns and swirls. This week, the gossipy New York magazine with sexual McCarthvism. up with the Whitmanesque yawn. carried an article strewn with There were the Steinians, the photos of gleaming-faced 29year-old painters in front of Ginsbergians, the Untouchables, the poetry graduates their colourful canvases. reading prettily bland stanzas.

Damian Loeb is one of those painters - a draftsman now in the big league. At his opening on Thursday, uptown at Mary Boone, Loeh, wearing a policeman's jacket, stood in front of his large photo-realistlike paintings of largely appropriated images. There were Ku Khix Klansmen and the hloody corpse of a half-naked woman on a subway platform with men in Santa Claus

paintings were on sale for \$15,000. Amid the younger men in Pradaish attire was an older man in a houndstooth jacket,

one of Loeh's collectors. He told me that today's art market was "a collector's paradise". "There's so much going on in Damian's pictures," the collector said proudly, referring perhaps to the painting of hubhle-headed LA teenagers in a car, with men in fatigues gunning people down behind them.

Loeb and the other new New York painters have been touted as a fresh breed, a firm departure from the decadent Eighties painters, modest, even idiosyncratic, with Loeb's work some of the flashiest of the tot. No monumentalist canvases

or monumental prices. "Painting certainly is alive. I doo't foresee it dying any time soon," says David Frankel, a critic for Artforum. He adds that the public pronouncement of painting's new life is "commercial as well as intellectual. For a moment it became important to say that painting was dead. That became a prob-

lem for people trying to sell art". One of the best things about poetry is no one says it's alive to fatten their pocket books. Forty years ago, the poet and cribc Frank O'Hara wrote a line that could describe the rush to birth and death certificates in art: "Naming things is only the costumes reading tabloids. His intention to make things."

Cornwall or bust

THEATRE NEW VIC STUDIO

BRISTOL OLO VIC

THE BRITISH road novel and movie have always suffered from an inferiority complex with respect to their heefy American cousins. Partly this is due to the nature of our roads – 187 miles of M1 is hardly in the same league as the sweeping 2,000 mile grandeur of Route 66, and the persistence of roadworks on the M5 means that one is unlikely to enjoy that windswept, "nothing

between us and the horizon" feeling of Thelma and Louise. But primarily it is a problem of association. It is hard to find the sense of dislocation and rural otherness so useful to American authors within the scepter'd isle. There are few banjo playing inbreds in Basingstoke - although perhaps

not as few as one would like. Nevertheless, Dorset writer Jon Ivay has made a valiant stab at the genre with his new play Freebird. It centres on a trip by three motorcycle couriers, the epitome of late Nineties urbanism, to darkest Cornwall in search of a remote cannabis farm. What starts country gradually transforms itself into a bad trip, in every sense of the term. With its saddlebags packed full of humour and pathos, this is a very



On the road to nowhere: William Ely and John Berlyn in 'Freebird'

Ivay and director Ian Hastings have overcome one obvious handicap in the development of the road play, namely the fact that a stage is a stationary environment. The economical set is dominated by three motorcycles facing the narrow confines of this audience, and the use of iconic back projection, sound and lighting succeeds in creating a

genuine sense of motion. The first act is an entertaining collection of on-theroad snapshots which explore the world of the biker, the small-time criminal and the druggy with dry wit. William Ely's Tyg, who at first glance is an "all mouth and trousers" hiker, reveals himself to be a far less secure and more loveout as a relaxed weekend in the able character. John Berlyne's performance manages to lift permanently stoned drug connoisseur Grouch out of the mire of the dopehead cliche. Grouch may be a caricature,

one who is touching and funny rather than just gratingly monotonous. Together with Fred. played by Ivay himself, they stumble into the countryside weighted down hy all the citydweller's prejudices about this strange rural world.

Unfortunately the second act fails to live up to the promise of the first, as the characters slip into a mushroom-induced haze and the play slithers to a hallucinogenic ending. The plot - shaky from the start - finally unravels completely with William Burroughs replacing Alan Ayckbourn at the scriptwriting controls. This is a shame, since Ivay has a keen talent for realistic dialogue and characterisation. However, the unsatisfying final half-hour should oot be allowed to overshadow a pleasant evening of humour, recreational drug use and loud rock music.

TOBY O'CONNOR MORSE

ARTS DIARY

company behind accomplished one small Trainspotting has invited victory for common sense. would be scriptwriters to This year for the first time pitch to them via their a daily diary published at website. But Andrew the festival will Macdonald (below), head incorporate main festival of Figment, says the and fringe events. But, quality of ideas pitched so despite Ms Strong's far has been disappointing. urgings, you will still not be able to buy bckets for Most have either heen inner city drug-addict main festival and fringe stories or highland eveots at a common box historical epics. "The office. For people arriving strangest one," he tells in Edinburgh this is just Premiere magazine. "was nonsense. The main about a little boy who festival may be territorial blows up the oloon, about its product, but the punters in Edinburgh in throwing the menstrual cycle of every woman in August just enjoy seeing the world off kilter." It shows. Very often they sounds a great movie to doo't know and don't care me. Spielberg could direct to which particular festival this global explosion of the shows belong. PMT; the leading ladies of Hollywood and Britain

the merchandising. Go for not just that her career over 40 years should have made her a dame by now; it's also that last year she IN RESIGNING as director was responsible, though of the Edinburgh Festival insufficiently credited, for Fringe this week Hilary wresting Tennessee Williams's first play from Strong has caused a little the Williams estate and mischief, as any holder of that post should. She told bringing it to the National me she was quitting for its world premiere. because, with the advent Surely it couldn't be that of a Scottish parliament, the Blair government is wary of honouring a the person running a key Edinburgh cultural brilliant actress who institution should be happens to have had ultra-Scottish. 'I'm English and left affiliations? it's time to go hack where I belong," she says. I suspect she won't be

getting any thanks for that statement from Brian Festival Timothy Scotland. None of them is Scottish;

"APART FROM that, what did you think of the show?" part 3: At the new Sadler's Wells up in the second circle they are having alarming premonitions, it seems. Geoffrey Walker of London writes in to say: "A single

THE NEW Year Honours

List again found no place

for Vanessa Redgrave. It's

staircase particularly of these dimensions is insufficient to move an audience in acceptable time. I have heard many patrons remark that they hope there won't be a fire, as they shuffle for up to 15

minutes to

THE BOOKS INTERVIEW

How to lose the abbey habit

In fiction, as in life, Michèle Roberts wants more fun - and fewer nuns. By Christina Patterson

he first surprise is that Michèle Roberts has swapped her house in Holloway, full of colourful clutter and a sense of benign decay, for a compact City pied-a-terre in a gleaming modern block a stone's throw from the Bank of England. Even the lilies in the vase match the white walls and cream furniture. We drink white wine, too, but Roberts is quick to point out the red wine stains on the carpet from a recent party. Hedonism has not yet been expunged from the life of this writer whose main concerns, expressed in the title of her collected essays, are "Food, Sex and God".

Food is still a central pleasure and a theme of almost pornographic sensuality in her work; but she's slimmer than when I last saw her. These days, she keeps an eye on her weight and swims every day. Michèle Roberts is nearly 50, and she is glowing. Suspicious of new technology, she has finally swapped her Olivetti, with its bouncy keys "like little finger-tip trampolines" for a word-processor ("I always want to call it a food-processor!") and found that her almost superstitious fear of losing the writing ritual evaporated. "It was like a new seduction," she laughs, "a better machine, a better lover, better technique..."

The move to minimalism has more than a little to do with the fact that her stepsons are now old enough to flee the nest. If Roberts has chucked out her chintz and most of her books and furniture, it is only as far as her house in Normandy, where she spends "about 60 per cent" of her time and does most of her writing. It is, however, difficult to resist a feeling that there has been some serious streamlining and radical change, particularly in the light of the biggest surprise of all. Her new novel, Fair Exchange (Little, Brown, £15.99), set at the time of the French Revolution, is a rollicking good read with not a nun in sight. Michèle Roberts without Catholicism

would, one imagines, be a little like Woody Allen without neurosis. Since her first novel, A Piece of the Night, in 1978, she has explored the world of catechisms and convents, visions and Virgins, sex and sin, with lush detail and passionate intensity. Her female characters exhibit a lust for life that they find impossible to square with their Catholic roots, a tension that has led to wild flights of surrealism. This culminated in her previous novel, Impossible Saints, a subversively playful collection of fables, hursting with madonnas and whores, dismemberment and incest.

Fair Exchange seems an infinitely calmer affair. Split. like Roberts, hetween two young women, one French, the other a pupil of Mary Wollstonecraft, who discover love, motherhood and independence against a background of revolution. Both grapple with the scandal of extra-marital ness and, as in all good page-turners, a secret. There's still a sense of play, with shades of Jame Eyre and Angela Carter, hut it all feels very much less self-consciously clever than her recent work. Calvino and Kristeva seem to have receded and the Marquis de Sade replaced, dare I say it, by Georgette Heyer. Is this fair?

Yes, I think in a playful way I wanted to come out and say I've read a lot of her of feminism that surfaced in her early work stuff and I really have loved it... I think it's is sometimes associated with the crude going to appeal to people who like stories, Jungian archetypes appropriated by New



MICHÈLE ROBERTS, A BIOGRAPHY

Michèle Roberts was born in 1949 to a French mother and an English father and brought up in Edgware. After a convent-school education, she read English at Oxford, where she became a founder member of the first women's streettheatre group. During the Seventies, she was a pregnancy counsellor, a librarian, a hippie, a

lesbian, a feminist activist and the poetry editor of Spare Rib. Her first novel, A Piece of the Night, was published to great acclaim in 1978, followed by The Visitation (1983) and The Wild Girl (1984), a controversial fictionalised account of the life of Mary Magdalen. She has published five other novels including Flesh and Blood (1994), which

provoked comparisons with Woolf, Colette and Joyce, and Daughters of the House (1992), shortlisted for the Booker and winner of the WH Smith Literary Award. Her other publications include a collection of short stories, a book of essays (Food, Sex and God) and three collections of poetry. She is married to the artist Jim Latter.

and who don't expect everything to be very clever and lofty." Certainly, there's a new lightness of touch, a sense of maternal presence to replace the familiar theme of maeight novels which scoured out my soul and something a little more light-hearted. I killed off some old demons in Impossible Soints and solved something about Catholicism and why I'd found it so damaging".

There is, she points out, an ex-convent: pregnancy, a dawning feminist conscious- a joke for her husband, Jim, who announced firmly after the last book, "Mimi, I think you've done enough muns". Roberts has not, however, thrown out the baby with the bath-water. She now believes that "God is immanent... like a shorthand for the connection between people and things and the world".

It's something of a relief to hear that she's "not into Goddess", since the brand who aren't frightened by romance as a form Age types in tie-dye pantaloons. She is still

that he was "probably a randy old hugger who fucked all the women and then told them off for having an animus problem". ternal absence - and a conspicuous lack of Dreams, usually a central part of her writ-Catholic guilt. "I felt that having written ing experience, featured less this time, and even the genesis of the novel was different.

a haunting image, but this one was the idea of her French publisher. "We were having lunch in Paris one day and he said 'Hey, I've got a novel for you to write". Roberts immediately knew that this period, of incipient feminism and political radicalism, was her opportunity to "grapple with what we went through in the Seventies" - a novel she had wanted to write for five years.

It all sounds considerably less angstridden than her previous work. "I think I'm in a happier, more contented state of being". Domestic happiness (she and Jim have been together for 11 years), Catholic catharsis and literary acclaim seem to have created a calmer climate in which she is free to explore the power of storytelling. She was, when she was small, the family storyteller, but it was an impulse she

intrigued and inspired by Jung, but thinks learnt to suppress as she adapted to "someone else's story, a story told by the Catholic Church". "Now I feel I can sit on top of the story," she announces. "It's like sitting on your mountain and thinking I can walk around this mountain any way I want".

If Roberts has learnt to demystify fiction, a religious experience". She has talked before of "the utterance of poetic language as a feminine pleasure recalling the baby's blissful babble at the maternal breast". How far does this relate to her own poetry? "I do feel that there's something quite basic going on," she agrees, "which is a need to speak from the unconscious". She has published three collections of poetry, but confesses that she is "in a real crisis" about it. Her poems are, like her fiction, passionate, exuberant and sensual, but they are not "what the people in power like...

My poetry is not establishment poetry". Perhaps not, but her status leans more towards the establishment than away from it these days. She has been shortlisted for the Booker, won the W H Smith award, does regular tours for the British Council and

is an occasional presenter for Radio 3. In the chic flat overlooking the Thames, the years of sleeping in coats in cold squats and living on peanut hutter and carrots seem far away. Her anger has dissipated a little, her frustration softened by "ordinary happiness", but her passion remains as strong writing poetry remains for her "almost like" as ever. "I feel I wasted a lot of my precious youth and my thirties sorrowing and suffering," she laments. "I love meeting new people, I love conversations. I love food, I love sex and I love wine... Ive always been greedy for life, but I think I was so fraught about it I wasn't always enjoying it". Duality is a constant theme in the work

of this writer, who is half-French, half-English, and a twin to boot. It is a theme that she seems to be acting out in a polarised double life. In London, she sips wine at literary parties and looks after the public side of her life as a writer. In France, she writes like a demon, cooks delicious meals. digs the garden and chats to the neighbours about vegetables, pigs and the weather. "There's a hit of me," says sleek Michèle Roberts on the elegant cream sofa, "that really likes walking about grunting".

COVER STORIES



SENSIBLE VOICES have noted that, in relation to Nick Hornby's sales, his alleged f2m advance for world rights to two books is probably quite a bargain. Neither was his move to Penguin born out of avarice. Gollancz has changed much since he signed up with Fever Pitch, but nothing was more significant than the death of Liz Knights, the editor who nurtured his talent. With Gollancz recently acquired by Orion, he would seem to have made the hreak at the right time. And had Hornby done an Amis, hawking himself around every publisher in town, he could surely have made twice as much.

NEITHER DOES greed explain Sue Townsend's move to Penguin. Loyalty does, for the creator of Adrian Mole has rejoined her editor, Louise Moore, who defected from Methuen when the company was acquired by Random House. Townsend was less than happy with the way that her last novel, Ghost Children, was published, and her decision to quit Methuen will cost her dear: she will have to repay her advance. Just as the young Mole was highly critical of Thatcher, so 30-year-old Adrian will be equally critical of Blair in The Cappuccino Years, due this autumn. Just as well, then, that Townsend has left Random House; its chief executive, Gail Rebuck, is one of Tony's cronies.

BERTELSMANN, THE German media combine which now owns Random House, has embarked on an examination of its conduct during the Second World War. In a series of articles, historian Hersh Fischler alleges that, under the Third Reich, the company published more than a dozen books expressing pro-Nazi and anti-Semitic sentiments. Though Bertelsmann was shut by the Nazis in 1943, Fischler contends this move had more to do with hlack-market sales than any political dissent. Thomas Middelhoff, the firm's new chief executive, has appointed a panel to investigate allegations. He has promised that "no matter what we find, we will tell the public".

CRIME FICTION'S two leading Ladies, P D James and Ruth Rendell, have joined forces with W H Smith to raise money for Shelter. Until the end of the month, the retailer will donate £1 every time a customer buys two books by one or both authors. On 28 January, Lady James and Lady Rendell perform a literary double act Ior a Shelter benefit at the London Planetarium. Tickets, price £10, are available from London branches of WHS.

THE LITERATOR

Recipes for repression in the well-ordered household

Liz Jensen wishes that this buttoned-up, neatly-ironed queen of the quiet domestic trauma would learn to let her hair down once in a while



a Good Woman by Alice Munro

collection of closely-observed slices of domestic truth, her touch never falters. But it never alters, either. This is both a marvel and a disappointment. It is as though Munro has precision-ironed a set of very simi-lar shirts. Admirable though this is, one can't help wishing she'd left

In many of the stories, Munro pre-

tle mood, a complex thought, or an emotional pulse-beat, Alice Munro charted across decades. Her cliniis in a class of her own, and in this cal observation of this bio-degradation is both wise and acute. But the sharpness of the stories - and the characters who inhabit them - is blunted by a creeping sameness.

Thoughts of culpability and powerlessness evaporate and condense again in the minds of her protagonists, mostly women on the margins of action, like the young wife who takes a part-time job looking after an sents time-lapse snapshots of incapacitated old man and learns of

WHEN IT comes to evoking a sub- women in relationships, families his possible involvement in the dark from the watery grave of Mr Willens, past of a distant island. But the story deliberately suffocates the details of the ancient atrocity, and the truth contains an ophthalmoscope - a ends up smoothed over by female collusion. The Law of Literary the multi-lensed narrative of how the Understatement, which Munro is rightly revered for adhering to, decrees that less is always more. Here, though, it feels like less.

The almost novella-length title story begins in a museum in the Canadian town of Walley. Alongside butter churns and horse harnesses lies a box of instruments dredged

an optician whose car plunged into the Peregrine River in 1951. The box relic which becomes a metaphor for optician met his fate. Munro reveals the story of his mysterious death first through the eyes of three boys who see his hand apparently waving from his sinking car, and then from the point of view of Enid, who murses the dying, hitter wife of the man who may have killed him. You fear

that Enid will fail to confront the pos-

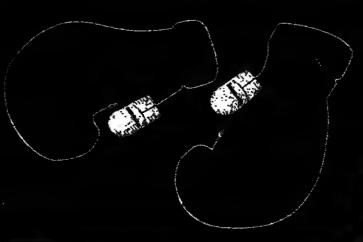
sible-probable murderer, and love him instead. But the idea is amorphous, and one is left gasping for something solid. And thinking petu-

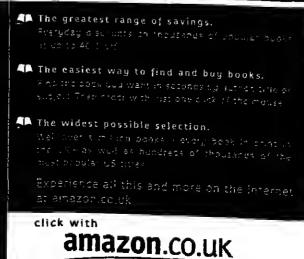
lantly, after 70-odd pages, is that it? In "Before the Change", Munro comes the closest to finally having herself a ball. When a young woman assists her doctor father in performing an abortion, "out of the womb now came plops of wine jelly. and blood, and somewhere in there the foetus... a tiny plastic doll as negligible as a fingernail". Here the writing suddenly buzzes with energy and

comes alive, so that when the woman reveals her secret, there is true pathos, humour and surprise.

Like a set of marks traced into the sand of a beach, The Love of a Good Woman contains a delicate genre of writing which leaves only a faint. homoeopathically thin imprint of itself behind before vanishing. This is hoth the glory and the failure of this collection. You can see that life is probably like this, but you'd rather it were not. By the end, Munro's understated truths left me hungry, and craving the nourishment of lie

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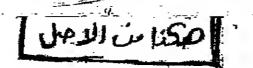
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Biting back at the Woolf pack

Virginia and her pals still bewitch writers of fact and fiction. Ray Monk points out the pitfalls of Bloomsbury biography

such a perfect title for a life of Virginia Woolf that it is a onder it has not been used by one of the previous dozen or so hiographies. The phrase comes from her essay "The New Biography", in which she expressed her scepticism about the whole genre. Quoting Sir Sidney Lee's remark that "the aim of hiography is the truthful transmission of personality", she wrote: "No such single senteocc could more neatly split up into two parts the whole problem of hiography as it presents itself to us today. On the one hand there is truth; on the other there is personality. And if we think of truth as something of granite-like solidity and of personality as something of rainbow-like intangibility and reflect that the aim of hiography is to weld these two into one seamless whole, we shall admit that the problem is a stiff one and that we need not wonder if biographers have for the most

part failed to solve it." In "The Art of Biography", Virginia Woolf criticised Lytton Strachey's Elizabeth and Esser for attempting to solve this problem by combining fact and fiction. Lacking documentary evidence for the "tragic history" he claimed to see lying, half-revealed and half-concealed in the available facts about Elizabeth I and the Earl of Essex, Strachey simply invented what he could not prove. This, Woolf insists, will not do, for fact and fiction, the granite and the rainbow, "destroy each other". Strachev's book is a failure but "It was not Lytton Strachey who failed; it was the art of biography".

Biography, constrained by the granitelike world of observable fact, is not an art. but a craft. To convey successfully the rainbow-like world of personality the intangible nature of thoughts and feelings, one has to enjoy the artistic freedom of the novelist. That is why paradoxically, "fiction is likely to contain more truth than fact".

Very few novelists or biographers have thought about, or felt, the problem of biography more deeply than Virginia Woolf. The question "how does one understand and convey the inner life of another human being?" dominates ber criticism, ber novels and, arguably, her life. To understand her thinking about biography is, to a surprisingly large extent, to understand ber.

Hermione Lee saw this very clearly, which is why her recent biography of Woolf begins with a chapter discussing Woolf's views on the genre. Disappointingly, Mitchell Leaska's book, despite its won-derfully apt title, does scant justice to the intensity and subtlety with which Woolf thought about the problem of hiography. His book begins with a confused introduction, in which he woefully misuses

ronite and Rainbou is Woolf's metaphor by insisting that his task as a hiographer is to uncover the "granite behind the rainbow", the "real thing behind appearances". This is bad enough (for the whole point is that the rainbow, though intangible, is every bit as real as the granite), but it gets much worse when one realises that this is no mere momentary slip, but rather symptomatic of a general

confusion on Leaska's part. The central weakness is that, whenever he attempts to summarise Virginia Woolf's thoughts about fact, hetion and reality. Leaska comes hopelessly adrift. He attributes to her an extreme form of subjective relativism, according to which, "something was only true... if you believed it". Woolf, he claims, believed that truth was "both relative and contingent upon the reader's subjective perception of the world", and that each perception was different, so that "reality was no longer public" hut "private, personal, idiosyncratic, subjectively construed".

The odd thing is that time and time again, Leaska himself provides the evidence that Woolf believed no such thing (she could hardly have objected to Strachey's mixing of fact and fiction if she did). He summarises the plot of Woolf's sbort story, "The Unwritten Novel", in which the unnamed narrator, sitting opposite a woman on a train, begins to fantasise the life story of this woman. When the train reaches its destination, the woman alights to join her waiting son and the narrator's guesswork is revealed to be wrong. However Leaska does not appear to notice that. if Woolf believed what be claims she believed, she could not have written this story. For, on his account, there would be no room for the notion of getting it wrong; thoughts and beliefs about reality would be indistinguishable from the facts and therefore not amenable to verification or falsification.

The purpose of Woolf's metaphor of granite and rainbow was to highlight, not obliterate, the difference between the truth of fact and the truth of fiction. Leaska's confusion on this point is not a minor flaw, but runs like a fault-line throughout his book, threatening to reduce it to incoherence. It undermines, for instance, his many otherwise enlightening parallels between the events in Woolf's life and the incidents described in her novels.

To describe the ways in which Woolf drew on her memories of her mother, Julia, in creating Mrs Ramsay in To the Lighthouse is to perform a useful service to scholarship; but to claim, as Leaska does, that in doing so he is revealing the granite behind the rainbow, the "real thing behind appearances", is to miss the point.

To the Lighthouse is a novel, an artistic creation. If it expresses important



Virginia Woolf and ber father, Sir Leslie Stephen, in 1902



Granite and Rainbow: the life of Virginia Woolf by Mitchell Leaska Picador, £20, 513pp



The Hours by Michael Cunningham Fourth Estate £12.99, 230pp

truths, this cannot be because it includes facts about Julia Stepben. The biograph-tations on his ability to understand Woolf er's obligation is to the facts; the novelist's herself. To that extent, his book suffers by to the integrity of creation. These two are not related as appearance to reality. The rainbow is not the appearance of the

granite, it is made of different stuff. Leaska's crude confusions make his book easy prey to the fashionable, facile dismissal of biography. When people insist that the facts of a writer's life cannot explain the work, they are right. Where they are wrong is in thinking that the task of the literary biographer is to explain a writer's work. It is not; it is, rather, to understand the writer. When a biographer makes the same mistake, he is in trouble.

Leaska's misunderstandings of Virginia Woolf's thinking and his reductioncomparison with the biographies of Quentin Bell and Hermione Lee, both of whom showed a far subtler grasp of Virginia Woolf's intricate and fascinating personality However, this is not to say that Leaska's book is entirely without merit.

It is the product of immense scholarship, which Leaska builds into his narrative with an impressively light touch, frequently drawing the reader's attention not only to the finished texts of Woolf's novels, but also to early drafts and alterations. Moreover, when he is not discussing metaphysics, Leaska writes extremely well, and the book is, for all its limitations, an absorbing pageturner - particularly in its treatment of Hulton Getty

Woolf's final breakdown and suicide, which is heartbreakingly moving.

He is also very good on ber parents, who are portrayed more vividly than in any other book I know Equally vivid is his account of Woolf's romantic relationship with Vita Sackville-West; though, characteristically, Leaska misses the fact that Orlando is not just about Vita. It is also, crucially about the limits of blography

"If only subjects had more consideration for their biographers!" Woolf wrote in Orlando. "What is more irritating than to see one's subject, on whom one has lavished so much time and trouble, slipping out of one's grasp altogether and indulging [In thought]. If the subject of one's biography will neither love nor kill, but will only think and imagine, we may conclude that be or she is no better than a corpse and so leave her". This is precisely the problem a biographer of Woolf has to face. So much of ber life was spent thinking and imagining that, unless one has a very rare insight into her mind, all the time spent in ascertaining the facts of her family, loves and so on will not prevent ber from eluding one's grasp. With his eye fixed on the granite, Leaska has missed the rainbow and, therefore, most of what is really interesting about Woolf. The result is a "hidden" life in quite a different sense to the one intended.

Ray Monk is the biographer of Ludwig Wittgenstein and Bertrand Russell

Michael Arditti meets Mrs Dalloway in a novel of parallel lives

ACCORDING TO the writer Gilbert Adair. "The Postmodernist Always Rings Twice". In my experience, this is a serious under-estimate. The postmodernist rings again and again refusing to give up, even when the hapless reader is cowering behind an armchair. And here, with his hand pressed firmly to the bell is Michael Cunningham, delivering a copy of The Hours: yet another in the long line of novels about novelists, fictions infused with other fictions; art which imitates art.

Cunningham appropriates the original title - and much else besides of Virginia Woolf's Mrs Dallowny, as he interweaves an account of Woolf's work on the novel with tales of its after-life in 1940s Los Angeles and 1990s New York. The first strand, in which be sticks closely to the versions of Woolf's writing and publishing familiar from the writer's own Diary and Richard Kennedy's A Boy At The Hogarth Press, is the most achieved. He convincingly captures Woolf's fragile sensitivity as she remains confined in Richmond under the benign wardership of Leonard.

The second strand sees Mrs Dallowny published and exerting its grip on Laura Brown, a Los Angeles housewife who yearns to escape from domesticity. As she bakes a cake for ber war-hero husband and prepares for the birth of their second child, her only escape lies in reading. The third strand centres on a lesbian publisher Clarissa Vaughan, whose name and temperament have led her erstwhile lover and lifelong iriend Richard to christen her Mrs Dalloway Clarissa is throwing a party to celebrate the now dying Richard's award of a major literary prize.

Cunningham's last novel, Flesh and Blood, was a sprawling family saga; The Hours is a tight-knit conceit. The writing is elegant, at times exquisite, offering striking images such as a man patting his pregnant wife's stomach "carefully but with a certain force, as if it were the shell of a soft-boiled egg". But the conscious emulation of Woolf's style reduces the expression of a unique sensibility to the level of accomplished pastiche.

The problem is that The Hours is a book about links rather than life. Woolf fans will have a field-day noting the correspondences between Clarissa Vaughan's world and Clarissa Dalloway's: both women spend their day planning parties; both are startled by the return of old friends; both have daughters in thrall to older women, both are affected by men who commit suicide. Yet, ultimately, this amounts to very little: it is the cleverness of crossword puzzles rather than the complexity of art.

Cunningham clearly intends his elaborate artifice to address the serious theme of the changing role of women it is a far cry from Virginia's thwarted trip to London and guiltily incestuous kiss on Vanessa's lips to Clarissa's independent life with her partner, Sally, But this is constantly undermined by a structure which is saying that women's sensibilities are all the same. Moreover, the connections are largely arbitrary. Laura might just as well be reading Daniel Deronda as Mrs Dallowau, while Clarissa Vaughan appears to inhabit a universe in which nickname is fate. As a result of a friend's quip 30 years

previously, she finds herself the contemporary embodiment of a Woolf heroine. It is fortunate that Richard did not opt for another literary namesake, Clarissa Harlowe: given the novel's logic, she would have ended up drugged, raped and shamed.

When Nick met Bridget on the beach...

FUELLED BY the glad tidings of Nick Hornby's two-million transfer deal, wannabe novelists will this week be sitting down all over Britain (or Brighton and Crouch End. at least!, eager to make good all those resolutions about committing their inspiration to print. Now, I speak from the receiving end of the 4.000odd new works of fiction issued in Britain every year, and my best advice remains, as ever. Don't do it.

If you must, then try at least to shun the shopworn formulae that currently litter the trend-seeking brains of agents and publishers like so many yellowing cracker mottoes. In newspapers, faddish ideas turn into fish-wrap within the week (thank heavens). In books, they can hang around for years. So this is the kind of thing I especially want to avoid during 1999 (and, alas, far beyond):

This Life Goes On (and on...) A hip, hot, yet curiously cool tale of neurotic middle-class house-sharers coming to terms with their sexual confusions, Law Society exams and that mouldy package in the back of the fridge. Thrill to the flat, featureless dialogue of a book stuffed with randy but deadly dull trainee conveyancers just like its readers (and its author), who'd all rather be watching TV anyway. That's life?

The Fulham Broad Way In which the ditsy Junior Fashion-Shoot Assistant at Frocks! magazine somehow resides in Mandelsonian splendour in SW6. There she wavers between the charms of a coke-addled Sobo film producer and a Hooray who owns a Wiltshire rectory stocked with damp labradors. Posh brand names, frilly underwear, designer drugs and

A WEEK IN BOOKS



BOYD TONKIN A few dead horses you may

see flogged in bookshops soon

that old Biological Clock, ticking all the way from Titanic to the Met Bar.

Dad's the Comedian Hornby gauge Bloke grows up, sires a sprog or two, gets in touch with his feelings and mooches wryly around

the DIY superstore of a Saturday afternoon in between serious talks with the Sensible Partner. Lots of stuff about old records, old girlfriends and Facing Up to the Challenge of Baby Poo, preferably written by a half-forgotten stand-up with a hefty therapy bill whom some out-of-touch publisher imagines is still famous.

Growing up Tropical Amid the oleanders, jacarandas, salamanders, etc. of the spoilt paradise of Tristan da Cunha, the serpent of adolescent sexuality traps our nubile young heroine in its coils. Nature throbs and oozes in sympathy as she falls for a slinky young rebel and so brings the cruel forces of masculine, imperial authority (PC Plodvana) crashing down on the doomed young couple. (Author registered with major model agency.)

Grammar-school Hooligan A riot of Stanley knives, Doc Martens, Ben Sbermans and two-tone sounds down at Scunthorpe United during the Winter of Discontent tor was it the Falklands War?) Emetic boot-onbone action joins acne-age angst and political allegory in this bleak tale of teen mayhem by a very nice boy wbo was doing his A levels and Oxbridge entry at the time, actually.

Countdown to Catastrophe Y2K! CIA! TWA! RIP! Jumbos fall from the sky! Mainframes shut down! Checkouts refuse your switchcard! Can our greying but still virile retired agent thwart the info-terrorists and stop Millennium meltdown? And can a sozzled old hack who has run right through his redundo cheque get Harrison Ford on board and carry on making those alimony payments?





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BY EMMA HAGESTADT AND CHRISTOPHER HIRST

Into Africa: a journey through the empires by Mark de Villers and Sheila Hirtle. Phoenix, £14.99,400pp



205pp LEAVING THE "life-supporting" blue IT SOUNDS a great idea. Veteran hack de Villiers takes a clockwise circuit of skies and seas of the Caribbean the ancient continent from Zanzibar to behind, 19-year-old Leila, her husband the Rift Valley, supported by historical Michael and baby son leave for background by Hirtle. This ambitious England. But the mean streets and project doesn't come off, due to the small-eyed inhabitants of their new country do nothing for Leila's already domination of de Villiers's reporting. "leaky" new marriage. Michael's Usually this is colourful and interesting, such as being pursued by vigilantes in drinking gets worse, and Leila is left Mozambique while riding pillion with a with only the health visitor for one-legged bicycle taximan, but, in his company. Alternating between England and the matriarchal world of St Kitt's, determination to extract copy from every encounter, de Villiers often ends Phillip's acclaimed first novel up describing nothing in particular. (originally published in 1985), shows Visiting a crowded bar in an Aidshim to be a shrewd observer of ridden area of Zambia, he helpfully frustrated lives. He is an author who notes, "It was impossible to have a lays the blame as much at history's conversation. Not that I needed to door as on too many hours spent know much." Still, a colourful primer sleeping it off on the steps of the "Day

to Dawn" bar.

£5.99, 320pp



The Homicidal Earl: the life of Lord Cardigan by Saul David. bacus, £10.99.

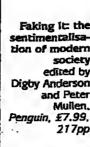
BETTER THAN Simon Schama, Sant David has re-cast history as addictive narrative. A perfect panto villain, Lord Cardigan is best known for destroying the 11th Hussars. Ironically, the Charge of the Light Brigade temporarily restored the reputation of this frothing martinet whose career was all but sunk by a series of scandals, often unbelievably petty in nature. A national brouhaba ensued when he court-martialled an officer for drinking un-decanted wine at a dinner. David insists Cardigan was no inbred idiot – after leaving the army, he became a respected parliamentarian hut his besetting sin was arrogance compounded by insecurity. This dazzling portrait of an unpalatable figure is not to be missed.



IF YOU'VE yet to be convinced by Joanna Trollope, her latest novel may well convert you. Not a welly-hooted Home-Counties girl in sight, as this page-turning read examines the impact of divorce and remarriage on two very different families. Eight-yearold Rufus is taken away from his dad and elegant town-house in Bath to start again in a middle-England terraced housing estate; meanwhile his new stephrother and sisters leave suburban hliss for life in an isolated. hitterly cold cottage in the Herefordshire countryside. Trollope is wonderful at describing children under pressure, and the best scenes here recount the misery of waking up

to an empty fridge and a mother who

prefers atmosphere to central heating



217pp IT IS unlikely that these 12 essays would have shot into the bestsellers were it not for a seven-page fragment on Princess Diana by Anthony O'Hear, whose unarguable views about a moment of national hysteria ("Feeling was elevated above reason") were bizarrely condemned by Tony Blair. Other contributions are equally bracing. The Rev Peter Mullen's opinion of contemporary religion ("cosy, patronising and babyish") will have been confirmed by many Christmas sermons. Though acute. Mark Steyn's dissection of American TV news is akin to shooting fish in a barrel, while Ian Robinson is on thin ice, citing the deeply cranky D H

Lawrence as a bulwark against



SERIOUS SHAKESPEARE huffs will have got to grips with everything there is to know about the man of the millennium by now, hut I found this combined biography and commentary on the plays so engrossing I listened to it twice. Although little is actually known of the Bard's life, there are plenty of theories about it - and much lively contemporary comment. This is woven into brief outlines of the plays, presented in chronological order, and illustrated by extracts read with great versatility by Judi Dench and Timothy West.



The Reader read by Charles Dance HarperCollins, 3hrs, £8.99

THIS MOVING, deeply truthful novel examines the crisis of conscience of Germans about their shared guilt for the Nazi concentration camps through the medium of a love affair which links two postwar generations. Bernard Schlink writes with a lucid clarity that makes him an excellent audio author - the more so since an intrinsic part of the plot of The Reader is that books are read alond on cassette for the benefit of the imprisoned, illiterate heroine. Charles Dance has exactly the right cool, precise objectivity required to put across this haunting love story.

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for anyone planning an African jaunt.

A Hard Time To Be a Father by Fay Weldon, Flamingo, £6.99, 262pp

FAY WELDON gets more appealing with age, In her latest collection of short stories, therapists and geneticists are given all the best lines. These clinicians of female destiny seem both to fascinate and annoy Weldon, But whether dealing with procreation or termination, the author's agenda is clear: mothers must die for children to move on: husbands must leave if wives are to prosper; and foetuses must take

stories "My Mother Said" (about the perils of maternal advice) and "Inspector Remorse" (the ethics of adultery). Weldon tackles life's more intractable dilemmas with gusto.

their chances where they can. She's

humorous, too - particularly the

Scorn, with corn Extra Bile edited by Marthew Parris. Penguin,

MATTHEW PARRIS

Q: WHO wrote that a royal demise caused "the total suspension of common sense and sincere human feeling for a fortnight"? A: GBS on the death of Queen Victoria. This dyspeptic pocket book is the perfect accompaniment for January hangovers. Of course, the famous verbal assassins are well-represented: "The rage of the sheep is terrible" (Whistler on Wilde); "The Teasy-Weasy of Fleet Street" (Littlejohn on Worsthorne); "A tadpole of the Lakes" (Byron on Keats). But Parris's trawl ranges far and wide. "With all my heart," replied John Horne Took to the suggestion that he should take a wife. "Whose wife shall it be?"



TOLD IN the form of diary extracts, the first volume in American Sandra Gulland's straightforward and likeable re-telling of the life of Josephine Buonaparte is laced with ribbons and period detail. Brought up in a Jean Rhys-like Martinique of sugar plantations and voodoo spells, Rose (as she is then known) is shipped off to France at the age of 15 to secure a suitable marriage. But with her new title of Vicomtesse comes tight corsets, painful childbirth and the terrors of the French Revolution. As the novel ends, so does Josephine's marriage, leaving her just the right side of 35 to catch the eye of the unwardly mobile Corsican. Napoleon Buonaparte.

The Brontes: a life in letters by Juliet Barker, Viking, £9.99, 415pp

THE ACCLAIMED Bronte biographer has brilliantly crafted these verbal snapshots into an epic home movie touching passionate and amusing. While the three sisters giggle at suitors ("he began to season his conversation with Hibernian flattery") and scribble like maniacs, we see brother Branwell decline from arrogant young Turk to decrepit sot ("contrive to get me Five pence worth of Gin"). The star of the show is Charlotte. Her view of the Crystal Palace as "strange, elegant but somewhat unsubstantial" is oddly familiar. She describes Filey in June as: "Dark, stormy and bitterly cold." Some things never change.

Forgotten Life by Brian Aldiss, Abacus, £6.99,

sentimentality.

TEN YEARS on, the second book in Brian Aldiss's Squire Quartet has lost none of its vibrancy. In a generous and firmny novel, Aldiss slips happily between life in contemporary North Oxford and wartime Burma. Clement Winter, analyst and don, has the job of sorting out his dead older brother's papers. A young soldier with the Forgotten Army, Joseph has never settled down. Clement's life, by contrast, is secure and successful. Married to a best-selling authoress of "Epic Fantasy", the only blips in his comfortable Oxford existence are his wife's affairs. The closer Clement comes to understanding his brother. the less he knows about himself.

BEST-SELLERS

The value of TV tie-ins to book sales is underlined this week by the arrival in the non-fiction top 10 of Making Friends in the UK. Published in November, its sales figures soared (from number 38 to number 10) after the much-byped wedding episode of this US sitcom screened on 11 December. Similarly, the

sales of Bill Bryson's Notes From a Big Country and Notes From a Small Island will doubtless be boosted by a six-part TTV series, Bill Bryson's Notes From a Small Island, starting tomorrow. In the history and current affairs chart, the dominance of Dava Sobel's Longitude looks upshakeable but, with Millermium

fever in the air, perhaps another chronicle of timeleseping, David Ewing Duncan's The Calendar, will knock it off the top spot.

Compiled by data supplied on sales over seven days ending 3 January 1999 C Bookwatch Ltd, 1999

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TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER PRICE
1 (9) Tom Clancy's Powerplays	Tom Clancy (Penguin) 4,522 £5.99
2 (-) Churchill's People	Mary Jane 5taples (Corgi) 3,997 £5.99
3 (-) Miracle Cure	Michael Palmer (Arrow) 2,924 £5.99
4 (-) This United State	Colin Forbes (Macmillan) 2,088 £5,99
5 (3) City Girl	Patricia Scanlan (Bantam) 1,553 £16.99
6 (-) Ramses 5	Christian Jacq (Simon & Schuster) 1,523 £9,99
7 (2) Carpe Jugulum	Terry Pratchett (Doubleday) 1,417. £16.99
8 (5) Archangel	Robert Harris (Hutchinson) 1,362 £16.99
9 (8) Rainbow Six	Tom Clancy (M Joseph) 1,336 £16.99
10 (7)Charlotte Gray	Sebastian Faulks (Hutchinson) 1,281 £16.99
[4] [4] [4] [4] [4] [4] [4] [4] [4] [4]	

ORIGINAL NON-FICTION AUTHOR/PUBLISHER (1) Delia's How to Cook Delia Smith (BBC) 12,460 £16.99 2(4) Little Book of Feng Shul Lillian Too (Element) 4,279 £1.99 3(5) The Little Book of Calm Paul Wilson (Penguin) 3,537 £1.99 4(-) Men are From Mars... John Gray (Thorsons) 3,421 £8.99 5(2) Notes From a Big Country Bill Bryson (Doubleday) 2.264 £16.99 6(3) The Life of Birds David Attenborough (BBC) £18.99 7(-) Birthday Letters Ted Hughes (Faber) 1.694 £14.99 8/9) Real Food Nigel Slater (Fourth Estate) 1,555 £18.99 9(10) Ethei and Ernest Raymond Briggs (Cape) 1,537 £14,99 10(-) Making Friends in the UK Penny Stallings (Channel 4) 1,507 £9.99

H	STORY, POLITICS,	CURRENT AFFA	URS	
THTLE				
THE STATE OF THE S	AUTHOR/PUBL	ISHER	WEEKLY SALES	PRICE
1 Longitude		Fourth Estate)	2,095	£5.99
2 The English	Jeremy Paxm	ian (M Joseph)	822	£20
3 Heaven's Mirror 4 The Calendar	Graham Hanor	ock & Santha Falia (M.Jose	eph) 804	£20 .
5 Stalingrad	Antony Beev	Duncan (Fourth Estate)	726 709	£12.99
6 Endurance		ander (Bloomsbury)	612	£20
7 Over Here	Raymond Sei	itz (Phoenix)	504	£7.99
8 East and West	Chris Patten		490 -	£22.5
9 Like the Roman: End		r (Weidenfeld).	404	£25
10 To the Last Man: s	pring 1918 Lyn Macdona	id (Viking)	399	£25

All in a Nobel cause

Zachary Leader warms to the kind of writer who could murder a critic

WHY WRITE? John Updike's answer, from an essay of 1976, is thoroughly Freudian: "the world, so balky and resistant and humiliating, can in the act of mimesis be rectified. adjusted, chastened, purified". Updike's comic hero, the Jewish-American novelist Henry Bech, would agree, calling art "both duplication and escape". But for Bech art is not enough. The chastening process must also be enacted. and where better to begin than with one's enemies? "I think you've shown a lot of balls, frankly," Bech's 26-year-old mistress, Robin, tells him when she discovers he's been systematically murdering the most hostile of his reviewers, "translating your resentments into action instead of sublimating them into art."

Robin herself, like this reaction, is pure wish-fulfilment. For though Bech's reputation has been quietly growing, un-like his ocuvre (three novels, two novellas, a "miscellany," a volume of "Sketches and Stories"), he is now 74. When he wins the Nobel Prize (Updike indulges all the male writer's fantasies, enumerated by Freud as "honour, power, wealth, fame and the love of women', one thinks of Saul Bellow, whose fifth wife, Janis, is more than 40 years his junior. Bech, though, is no Bellow; or rather, as in Updike's two previous collections about him, Bech: A Book (1970) and Bech Is Back (1982), not quite Bellow; just as he's not quite Roth or Mailer or Malamud or Heller.

To begin with, he's a lot like Updike, for all the expertly observed Jewishness, even the writer's block (definitely not Updike's problem). Updike, too, is a sexy writer, and like Bech has been accused of misogyny and hatred of the body (Broth-Bech's novellas, is "a con- mahogany presidential desk, its



Bech at Bay by John Updike Hamish Hamilton, £16.99, 241pp

temotuous Medieval expression for the body").

He also supported, or at least refused to denounce, the Vietnam War (like Bech, "draft evasion disgusted him") and has often heen labelled reactionary, memorably by Gore Vidal. The most wounding of the phrases Bech broods over from his bad reviews - "says nothing with surprising aplomh," "prose arabesques of astonishing irrelevancy" - recall the critic Gary Wills, for whom Updike's writing is "stylistic solipsism". Wills and Vidal, one notes, are the only real-life critics that Bech contemplates

rubbing out. The funniest of these five linked stories is "Bech Presides", in which Henry's friend and rival Izzy Thornbush, a sort of Mailer figure (though cunningly crafted to evade precise identification), persuades him to become president of a privately endowed academy called the Forty - a cross between the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (whose centennial Festschrift Updike has just edited) and the Acad-

emie Francaise. At first, Henry rather likes presiding, just as he likes the Forty's sumptuous midtown er Pig, the title of the first of mansion in New York, with its



Updike: 'inclulges all the male writer's fantasies' RC White

ceremonial dinners, and its devoted female administrators. But the Forty is dying: four members have already expired: the remaining 36 are ancient; and nobody can agree on a single new member. The exhilarating spite with which Updike imagines these egomaniacs who keep nominating people who are dead or else already members is among the best things in the book.

"Bech Presides" also pleases through its artiful plotting; in several senses, a virtue of the collection as a whole (which may account for its subtitle, "A Quasi-Novel"). In "Bech Pleads Guilty". Henry is sued for libel by a Hollywood agent whom he once described in print as an "arch-gouger" (Bech is "at bay" partly because surrounded by such enemies). This agent is monstrous but he also reminds Bech of his dead father. As the agent's suit collapses, Bech begins to feel sorry for him, and guilty (hence the

story's title). Bech's father, a diamond ealer, was indomitable, like the agent, but Bech now also sees him as vulnerable. His death from a stroke in the subway. "under the sliding filth of the East River," anticipates the death of Bech's first victim in "Bech Noir", the critic-killing

story, whom he pushes under the D-Train at a Sixth Avenue station. The Oedipal echoes of critic, agent, and father - blocking figures all - reverberate throughout the collection, delicately interweaving themes and plot motifs.

In the final story, "Bech and the Bounty of Sweden," Bech not only wins the Nobel Prize, to the fury and astonishment of his rivals ("Sour grapes," he tells us elsewhere, is "the champagne of the intelli-gentsia"), and marries the zoftig Robin, but fathers a daughter. As Bech holds this daughter, Golda, in his arms, and ascends the podium to deliver his acceptance speech, a "solemn look" on her face signals "the spicy smell of ochre babyshit".

Here, as everywhere in the collection, we are offered the twin literary pleasures of wishfulfilment and mimesis. This is the world just as it is and just as the writer wants it.

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) REVIEW

his life and work / Judi Dench and thy West hrs. £8.99

ESPEARE buffs dira son: is to know about illennium by now combined ammentary on the ing I listened to it little is actually rd's life, there are s about it - and emporary s woven into brief lays, presented in der, and illustrated with great di Dench and

Reader harles Dance ns Bhrs 55.99

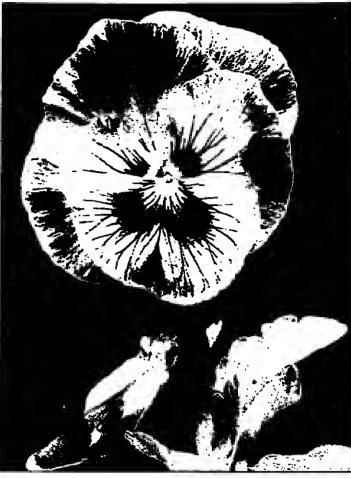
deeply truthful the orisis of ennians about their the Natio ampa through the e allair which links terations Bernard fith a locid clarity un excellent audio re su cince an the plot of The KOKS ATU FEBÓ e conthe benefit mullitarate. Dance has lovo, předsé THE CONTRACTORS

COUNTRY & GARDEN

When you add up the annual cost of a garden the results may be frighteningly high. But Anna Pavord isn't daunted

Money doesn't grow on trees







Who wants to be battling with the January sales when you could be cruising peacefully through the garden centre among cyclamen, pansies and forget-me-nots? Plants and seeds are a much better bargain

going for a year? I doo't really want to know the answer, but the relentless arrival of brown envelopes on the mat hrings finance into focus at this momeot. Nevertheless, I hang on to the conviction that seeds and plants r main ooe of the most miraculous bargains that mooey can huy. Who wants to battle with January sales when they could be cruising peacefully through their local garden centre, dreaming of forget-me-nots (£2.25 for a tray of six) or the possihilities of a clutch of flowering pan-

sies (£1.99 for a tray of six). The best way to save money in the garden is to make a list of what you want and stick to it. That is true of all shopping, of course. It is one of the reasons why supermarkets are so dangerous. You go in thinking of nothing hut a bag of self-raising flour and come out with a jar of

apple juice with mango and an oven sure than the oecessary compost

But though I may resent my own weak mindedness when I am wandering the supermarket's aisles, I positively encourage it when I'm among plants in a nursery. Different standards apply. I want to be led astray. I'd he unlikely to scoop up something huge and important, such as a tree, on a whim, but that leaves plenty of room for impulsive manoeuvre amoog herbaceous perennials and bulbs.

Only this week, I went into the garden centre for compost and came out with a delicious little cyclamen coum (£3.49). Who could possibly resist its rounded leaves, symmetrically marked with silver? Its first magenta bud is already beginning to open. These cyclamen look frail, being only three or four inches high, but they are survivors, and undemanding. They will motor all season on a

handful of bonemeal. I did not need that cyclamen, but lemon-stuffed olives, a cartoo of it has certainly given me more plea- really list things such as these.

i 75-iiire sack). I nad been ti about a bare corner by the back door. Until this season, it has been covered by the sweeping hranches of a Cornus tridel, now severely cut back. As soon as I saw the cyclamen, I knew comfortably among the clumps of lily of the valley, tucked underground now while the cyclamen is happily

A list can deal with the things I know I need: two more fan-trained pears to complete the enfilade along the south wall; four box balls to plant in the ivy that edges the path on the bank. But at this minute, plantsmen bringing into being plants I doo't yet eveo know I oeed. They may be plants I have never heard of, plants whose possibilities I am only just beginning to appreciate, plants (such as hostas) that perhaps I bave been slow in coming to admire. You can't

acquiring a neuebore or seven. I il be very surprised if a trip I am planning to a nursery specialising in primroses leaves me empty-handed on my return. A garden needs treats and surprises to keep it fresh. And they would work there. They would a gardener needs constantly to try oot mind the shade. They would fit out oew ideas, and be captured afresh by the potential of some new find, or a new way of using a well-known friend. Often, your first ideas do not work. But looking for inspiratioo in gardening books is no sub-

stitute for endlessly eogaging with

your own patch, shifting, rearrang-

ing, occasionally achieving an effect that is worth leaving in place. I am supposed here to be making infinitely more skilled than me are a tally of what the gardeo has cost over the last year. Instead I find I'm arguing that, whatever it cost, it was worth it. Yes, I admit to extravagance in plants. But I'm cheap on machinery. We have a good lawnmower (Hooda HRB 536 CHXE, £830), hut oo other gadgets. I can't stand the noise they make. Leaf vacs?

I'doubt, for instance, whether 1 What a terrible Idea! Who wants to (Levington Multipurpose, £5.50 for shall go through February without vacuum the garden after several urs wasted vacuumi

I'm cheap on tools, too, as mine are mostly the ones my great-uncle used before they came to me. Anyone who has a new garden and no tools should save up for a stainless steel spade and border fork (Yeomans hrand cost £24.99 each). Good tools will become close friends, but poorly made ooes will pull gardening down to their own tacky, insubstantial level.

Expenditure on herbicides and pesticides depeods on your attitude. I sit on the fence, using as little as possible of either, but unwilling to do without entirely.

Last January I bought slug pellets (£1.99) because the wretches were eating my Iris stylosa before I had time to pick them. In Fehruary I hought a pack of the residual weedkiller Pathclear (£23.88). Plants had taken over the paths on the bank so enthusiastically that I could scarcely push my way through. In August I hought the herbicide

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Roundup (£14.42) to help in the Branches that hang out from the tai poison bill Having good soil, which we plas-

ter liberally with muck and compost every winter and spring, I spend as little as possible on plant foods or medicines. We needed some of the iroo tonic called Sequestrene (four packets at £1.25 each) to dose our sickly-looking wisteria, and I also bought Osmocote slow-release fertiliser (27.45) to sprinkle oo the pots round the garden. That one dose will provide all the food the plants in the pots need for a season. They can't be expected to survive without help. Bonemeal (£2.56) is as standard an ingredient of the garden store as flour is in the larder. I use it wheo-

ever I plant. The quaint term "sundries" covers the rest of the things I got from our local garden centre last year. First, vine eyes: 16 4-in ones at 24p each and 16 3-in ooes at 18p each. Wall plants must be well trained and secured. They look better, giveo

fight against hindweed. That is the wall may be frosted or caught by wind. Masses of vine eyes get eaten up in our kitchen garden, banged into the stone walls to provide anchors for the espalier and fantrained pears.

I bought two bails of soft hrown twine (£2.39 each), and gravel (£1.55 a sack) to top-dress the pots of tulips by the back door. We needed more bamboo canes for the tomato plants, (10 x 8ft canes at 26p each and 10 x 7ft ones at 25p) and four sacks of mini-chip bark to cover the newly weedkilled paths (£5.25 each). I hought some wildly extravagant oew plant labels (life is too short to cut up old yoghurt pots) and a special pen with ink that will not wash off in the rain (£2.91 together).

So, is this the final bill for expenditure oo the gardeo last year? No. of course it is not. It just covers the boring hits - and it is all I'm admitting to. What I spend oo plants will for ever remain a secret betweep me and my deliciously inthis attention, and they are safer, too. dulgent bank manager.

IN THE limbo days of the new year. I do much of my ordering for the garden. By this stage, the new season is firmly in my sights. I just need to round up the specialist catalogues that will lead me to the

things I want. Once again, top of the pile is Elizabeth MacGregor's catalogue of violas and cottage gardeo plants. Her violas arrive in superb condition, fat, bouncing plants that transplant without whimpering and get into flowering mode in an incredibly short time. For a catalogue, send four first-class stamps to her at Ellenbank, Tongland Road, Kirkcudbright, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland DG6 4UU (01557 330620). From Suffolk Herbs, I need 'Cilantro' coriander, the best variety for leaves rather than seeds. I also need 'Carouby de Maussanne', an excellent mangetout pea, and some 'Grumolo Verde' chicory. Send £1 for a catalogue from Monks Farm, Coggeshall Road, Kelvedon, Essex CO5 9PG (01376 572456). Indoor flowering streptocarpus seem to be building up on our window ledges. They have been flowering since late spring and are only just coming to an end now. The flowers Are shaped like foxglove trumpets; the colours range from white through to a deep inky hlue, which is my favourite. Now I want a new

one, the white-flowered 'Albatross'

which is available from Dibley's

Nurseries at Llanelidan, Ruthin,

Clwyd LL15 2LG (01978 790677).

CUTTINGS

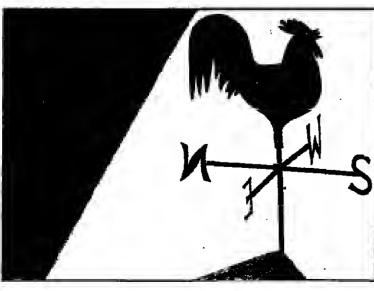
NEWS FROM THE GARDENERS' WORLD

doing its stuff.

Send a large sae for a catalogue. Plants will be sent out in March.

OUR WEATHERVANE was a present from my father-in-law, an expression of his relief that, after 12

a host of other breeds. I am intrigued by their pricing structure. Why should a Weimarana (band C, £89.50) be so much cheaper than a springer spaniel (band G. £142.50)? They also do ravens, curiews, cats



years or so working on the house, we had finally got a dryish roof over our heads. It was the finishing touch to the gable roof. Weathervanes in a wide choice of designs are made in Hertfordshire by Webbs. They don't just do dog; they do Border terrier, greyhound, whippet, Labrador, dachshund and

in various poses, sheep, horses, the traditional cockerel and a design called Fergie. It's not the D of Y (though she'd make a good windvane) but everyone's favourite tractor. Prices for medium weathervanes measuring 21in from west to east range from £84.50 to £152. Webb's catalogue is available

from Unit 5, Fen End Industrial Estate, Fen End, Stotfold, Hitchin, Herts SG5 4BA (01462 734006).

"I AM scratching out upoo Paper ten thousand Designs for... parts of the Garden & my plans commonly come to the same Fate... they are flung into the Fire and forgot," wrote the owner of Marston in Somerset in 1733. Gardeo history generally concentrates on the plans that worked. In his engaging book, Polite Landscapes (Alan Sutton, £18.99), Tom Williamsoo goes beyond the great showpieces of William Kent and "Capability" Brown to expose the wider social, economic and political implications of the 18th-century landscape.

He emphasises how practical was the relationship between client and designer. Land could not be disposed by aesthetic principles alone. Landowners had farms to run, forests to manage: the livelihoods of thousands of agricultural workers depended on these enterprises remaining profitable. As for the designers, they, too, had to be businessmen as well as artists. Repton, a great 18thcentury landscape designer, wrote despairingly of the "time and contrivance wasted to produce plans although highly approved, yet from vanity, from indecision, or from the fickieness of human nature, not infrequently thrown aside." Williamson's grasp of detail brings that distant period brilliantly alive. ANNA PAVORD

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Rural road or hellish deathtrap?

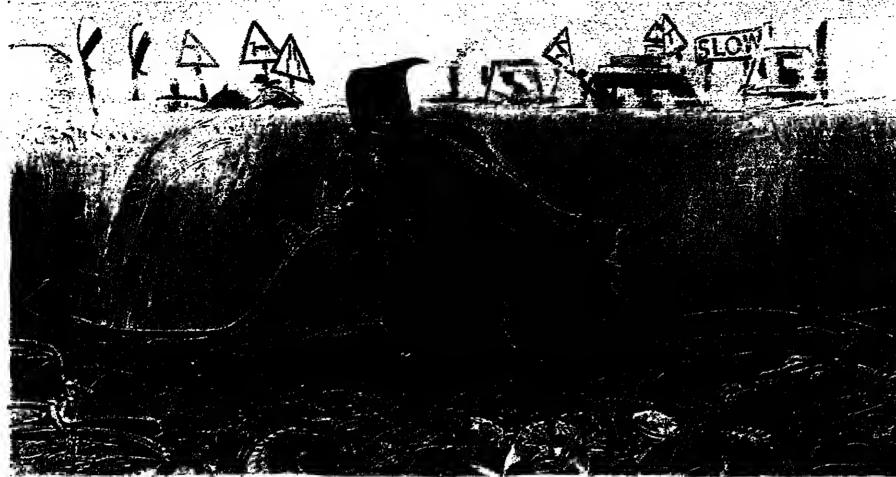
COUNTRY MATTERS



DUFF HART-DAVIS

he young Welshman with two rings in his left ear drives everywhere at furious speed and whinges hitterly about anything that slows him down. "Tractors are the worst," he says. "They just get in your way. They're looking at you and laughing. So any bit of road you can overtake them, you just go flying past." He is the least attractive character in Channel 5's second programme in the series on road rage, to be broadcast on Monday evening. But Rural Hell includes several other choice specimens, and includes some alarming statistics: that you are 10 times more likely to have a fatal crash on a country lane than on a motorway, that 1,500 horse-related accidents take place in lanes every year, that 2,000 vehicles a year crash on bends simply because they are going too fast.

The programme provides yet another vivid illustration of the difference in attitude between town and country people. The rural folk who feature are calm, slow-moving and reflective; the townspeople are frenzied in their need to progress from one place to another at maximum pace. One urban driver after another complains that farm vehicles and animals are nothing but a nuisance: tiresome obstacles to be overtaken as fast as possible, rather than fellow road-users with an equal right to be on the highway. An American, skilfully piloting a large van, maintains that farm machines "have no appreciation of your needs". Apart from other defects, they have "dirt on their rear" so that you can't see when the drivers are braking or indicating a turn. As for that caravan:



"I gotta 'take him, 'cos he's doing 35 and I need to do 50."

That last phrase sums up the whole problem. Anyone who needs to maintain 50mph in a hefty van should not be roaring along country lanes. Speed is the arch-villain and arch-destroyer - as no one knows better than Eleanor Hill One sunny evening she was riding her horse Terrapin along a lane when she heard a car approaching from behind at lunatic velocity. Before she could take evasive action, she was flat on her face on the Tarmac, 20 yards farther on, and her horse had been smashed to the ground with its back and both back legs broken. She has not ridden since; but, as she remarked with understandable bitterness, the man who hit her got seven points on his licence and a fine of £200, and is still driving around. On New Year's morning a group

House & Home

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Unusual Gifts

of us, 40 strong, walked out from the village. For most of our seven-mile circuit we were on footpaths; when we did have to take to roads, the traffic was mercifully light, and drivers were courteous. But everyone was aware that on the first day of the year few motorists were out and about.

Along the way somebody asked why so much fuss is being made about the construction of new houses in the countryside. The populations of many villages, she pointed out, used to be far higher than they are now, and during the past couple of centuries, hundreds of cottages have simply disappeared with the rundown of rural employment. Why, then, worry, if new houses are built?

The answer is that country people's habits have changed entirely. In the 18th century they had no form of transport except their feet and possibly a horse and cart. They cles that make them hazardous.

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walked to work, to the village shop, to church, to the puh. Children walked to school and back. People grew most of their own food: a visit to the nearest town was an adventure. In other words, they were static, rooted in one spot. Footpaths and narrow lanes could easily accommodate such traffic as they created.

Today their successors are constantly on the move, hurrying to work, ferrying children to school, rushing to catch a train, hurtling to the supermarket, the gym, the doctor. Everybody drives without a second thought. The result is that lanes are becoming increasingly dangerous and unpleasant, especially when commuters use them as rat-runs because main roads have become intolerably congested. Ugly new houses may distigure villages, hnt it is fast-moving vehi-

When I was a boy, living in an isolated farmhouse, my sister and I' used to ride or push our bikes a mile across country and leave them un-secured in a hollow beech tree beside the main road at the point where we caught the school bus. No parent today would countenance a scheme so fraught with every kind of peril; abduction, accident at pickup point or on the highway, theft of

cycles during the day. The answer to the problem is not, as some authorities believe, to widen all lanes and turn them into Aroads. That would merely increase speeds still further, make life yet more perilous for locals, and remove a feature that contributes most strongly to our countryside's character. The real difficulty is to make people drive slower when the narrow and twisty nature of the road demands it. As Rural Hell clearly

road rage. "You made me SLOW DOWN!" roared one motorist who, beside himself with fury, head-butted another after being impeded for a few seconds.

demonstrates, the slightest enforced

deceleration is enough to precipitate

So what can be done? More speed limits would make little difference, as they are so widely ignored. Humps in the road render life intolerable for people who have to use lanes regularly. Cameras do act as a deterrent, but they cannot monitor every lane in the country.

What about making road rage a criminal offence, for which the penalty would be permanent disqualification from driving? That at least would remove from the roads people with a congenital inability to control their temper, whether in the country or in the town.

NATURE NOTES

FEW ANIMALS announce their mating rituals more loudly than foxes, which are once again starting their nocturnal courtship. Even in the dark it is easy to distinguish the sexes, as they give out entirely

different calls. Dog foxes patrol their territories uttering little volleys of dry, staccato barks - roff, roff, roff - at intervals of several minutes, and leaving marker-deposits of urine as they go. On a still night you



can plot the progress of a dog fox along the side of a valley by the sound alone.

The vixen's cry is an unearthly scream, usually uttered when she is feuding with a competing female: the two stand on their hind legs and spar, letting off fearful imprecations. They, too, are marking their trails with frequent urination, and the allure of a female in season is powerfully magnetic. On one occasion

I saw seven foxes advancing in line-ahead formation, six of them dogs after a single vixen. After a gestation period

of about 52 days, cubs will be born in underground dens, probably four or five in a litter. For their first fortnight they are hlind, but thereafter they start to emerge and play round the mouth of the earth. If the mother feels that danger is threatening, she may move them to another den, carrying them one at a time by the scruff of the neck. **DUFF HART-DAVIS**

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Contracts & Tenders

Contracts & Tenders

NEW GOVERNMENT POWERS TO INTERVENE IN LOCAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The Government has taken oew powers in the School Standards and Framework Act to intervene in cases where a local education authority fails to adequately carry out its duties in relation to school education.

In the event of such intervention the Department for Education and Employment may wish to deploy private sector contractors. Contracts may be let both for consultancy services preparatory to further intervention and for the

subsequent provision of the education services themselves. The Government will act where it is clear that a particular LEA cannot or will out perform adequately. It then needs to be in a position to act swiftly and effectively.

This advertisement invites contractors to express an interest in playing their part, as and when necessary, in improving local education services.

Education Services

The Government will draw up a list of selected contractors who can perform in a cost-effective way the contractors who can perform in a cost-effective way the council's role in supporting schools and providing services to popils and parents. This might include for example, preparing and implementing statutory plans such as the Education Development Plan, providing popil welfare services, administering school admissions, and financial monitoring. The Department for Education and Employment wants to develop a close relationship with those on the list. It is the intention that the majority of education services provided by external contractors as a result of Government intervention will be carried out

Management Consultancy and Advice

The Government also proposes to establish framework contracts with a oumber of organisations for the provisioo of management consultancy and advice provision of management consultancy and advice related to the administration and support of maintained school education and services to pupils and parents. The required services may relate to any of the current LEA functions and will typically build no Ofsted LEA inspection reports. There will be a range of activity which could include: advising the LEA on bow to address concerns highlighted by Ofsted; drawing up a specification on the basis of which the contract for the provision of education services would be drawn up; and provisioo of edocatioo services would be drawn up; and managing cootracts for service delivery.

The Department is keen to hear from those interested in carrying out either or both of these types of work, including those interested in doing so for particular areas of the country or for certain functions.

For information packs containing further details of the two aspects of work involved, the contracting processes and timetables, please fax a request to 01325 392488. In accordance with EU Procurement Regulations, an advertisement for the consultancy work will also appear in the Official Journal of the European Communities and Government Opportunities.

The deadline for receipt of expressions of interest is





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'The air up here is worth sixpence a pint,' said Tennyson (pictured below en famille) of the downland that sweeps across to The Needles (above)

Anyone for Tennyson?

Freshwater Bay on the Isle of Wight was a cultural shrine for the Victorians, who flocked here to see their poet-hero. Today, Mick Webb finds inspiration in its grey stones and winter skies

thy cold grey stones, oh sea", and break it certainly did, crashing on the pebbles of Freshwater Bay, just Alfred Lord Tennyson had commanded in his famous lines. The western end of the Isle of Wight is Tennyson country, and his legacy is but one reason for paying a winter visit here. Almost severed from the rest of the island, it is self-contained, very beautiful and, at this time of year, as quiet as ... West Wight out of season. As we played dodge-thespray on a chilly grey morning, looking forward to soup and a pint in the handily placed Albion Hotel, it was hard to imagine that this was once a literary and cultural shrine. One guidebook goes so far as to at their best from the Tennyson compare mid-19th-century Freshwater Bay to ancient Athens under Pericles, as eminent Victorians beat a path to Tennyson's door to share his wisdom and join his circle.

Nowadays, though, you don't need literary credentials to stay at the pest's home; it has become the Far-ringiord Hotel, which, as well as the usual hotel rooms, has a number of self-catering suites and huiklings for once filled a little glass lighthouse

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reak, break, break, on rent. We, a family of four, stayed in one of the "garden" cottages, which are arranged around a lawn that was once a tennis court enjoyed by the poet's sons. My own children played Frisbee and football there - we can only guess what the great man would have thought of that. He certainly wasn't keen on the influx of ordinary visitors that railway travel brought to the island.

What hasn't changed much since Tennyson's time is the broad and beautiful swath of downland that crowns the cliffs between Freshwater Bay and the Needles. "The air up here is worth sixpence a pint," the poet laureate was fond of quoting. I expect that is about £100 at today's rates, and worth every penny. And that is without counting the views, Monument, over the Solent to the mainland or out across the English Channel. We walked the three exhilarating miles from Freshwater Bay to the Needles, though these were a hit of a disappointment. smaller than expected, and rather more like shark's teeth than needles. The other tourist attraction of the



with different coloured sands, is no longer a mecca for sand-collectors. Erosion has made the practice too dangerous, although there are mainly to the photographic work of compensations - a hit further round Mrs Julia Margaret Cameron. She and Fishbourne, and Lymington to the coast, at Headon Warren, the was a pioneering photographer crumbling cliff has created an undercliff with a kind of mini-jungle that makes for an interesting and sheltered walk with great possibilities for hide-and-seek. Or, when you have had enough ups and downs, a much flatter ramble can be had along the old railway track beside the river Yar into the pretty little port of Yarmouth. En route, there is the chance to see and almost certainly misidentify a whole variety of water

birds, which include oystercatchers

I am reliably informed that in summer, the sea around here is very warm and welcoming. In winter, though, the best thing to do with the sea is to watch it, ideally from behind a nice piece of glass, and West Wight is not short of this kind of facility. Apart from the Albion at Freshwater Bay, there is a pub called The Waterfront on the seafront at Totland whose long and spacious conservatory has windows acing seawards, while the Dimbola Lodge in Freshwater Bay combines tearoom-with-a-view, a little

bookshop, and a gallery given over noted for her portraits of Carlyle. Darwin, Browning and many other famous visitors to Freshwater, and she was very much part of the Tennyson set.

At this time of year, most of the leisure parks and complexes are closed, and very sad and abandoned they look. But then fun and games and late nights are not what West Wight is really about. Apart from rambling and birdwatching, you can see glass and porcelain being made, and find ont all about pearls.

After dark, the main source of entertainment is the pubs, where children are welcomed, menus are varied and portions are large. My favourite meal was at The Fat Cat on the Bay, where the proud boast is that "home-made means homemade", and the patron stocks a lethal collection of spirits - calvados, marc, sambuca, grappa... Just writing the names makes my head spin. Still, a quick walk down to Freshwater Bay soon sorts you out.

Two companies operate ferries to the Isle of Wight: Wightlink (01705 827744), from Portsmouth to Ryde Yarmouth; and Red Funnel (01703 2275991 from Southampton to Cowes. Mick Webb travelled by Wightlink Ferries from Portsmouth to Fishbourne. The trip cost £40 for a five-day return for car with two adults and two children.

At Farringford Hotel (01983 752500), self-catering cottages cost from £30 a day (£180 a week); hotel rooms from £26 per person. For more details, call Yarmouth Tourist Office 01983 813818

HAD WE not been the world's greatest optimists, we would not have gone on" - not the words of a passenger on Virgin Trains, but the revolutionary recollections of Fidel Castro, In Havana last night, he and I commemorated (though not together: the 40th anniversary of the triumphant arrival in the Cuban capital of his rebel army, a week after the dictator Batista had fled the country.

Cuba calls itself "The land of

miracles". Besides all the truebut-clichéd wonders that you could easily come up with about the Caribbean's largest and most entrancing island, here are a few more that the traveller here may marvel at: that it is possible to weld together several hits of Lada saloons to create a stretched limousine in this last bastion of Marxism-Leninism; that the last country to join the Soviet bloc has survived the collapse of all its ideological soulmates; and that it took until this week for the United States to begin to ease the ineffectual economic stranglehold on Cuba, whose main victims have been its Cuban citizens. British travellers are more

fortunate than we often realise For a start, anyone deciding to depart the UK by sea can get a passport within weeks - and a heavily subsidised ticket across the Channel. Those who hope to leave Cuba across the Florida Straits have missed the raft; risking life and limb on the treacherous stretch of water to Key West no longer automatically results in US citizenship. We are luckier, too, than the average American, who is banned from travelling to the closest overseas country by order of his or her own government, Anyone who spends cash in Cuba without previously obtaining a special licence is liable to receive a 10year prison sentence.

This week, a beleaguered Bill Clinton agreed to increase the number of flights between Miami and Havana. For a decade, these have been known as ghost flights; unlike almost any other flight in the world, they cannot be booked direct with the airline and instead you are told to turn up at a distant corner of Miami airport with a wad of cash. I have tried this, and It works, though a return fare of £150 for a half-hour flight is extortionate. Before being allowed to

board, British travellers have to sign a piece of paper to promise not to be Americans. The airlines that have benefited from this curious arrangement include Mexicana and Haitian TransAir, brought in as uncontentious third-party carriers - the island's national



SIMON CALDER

A US citizen who spends cash in Cuba without a licence can receive a 10-year prison sentence

airline, Cubana, being planae non gratae. Now, though, the skies over Havana are alive with the sight of United Airlines jets, with other US carriers set to follow.

For British travellers, the long-term benefit is likely to mean much easier access to Cuba. A two-centre holiday combining thrilling-butartificial Florida fun parks with the intense and entirely human excitement of Cuba sounds logical, but for the last four decades such a trip has been inadmissible. When (or, perhaps, that should be a very big "if") Fidel Castro celebrates his half-century in charge, Britain's biggest tour operator to Florida - Virgin Holidays - will be offering Mickey Mouse-meets-Marxism vacations. But perhaps I'm being too optimistic.

HAVANA WAS the place where the International Air Transport Association was founded; in 1945, as the world emerged from war, the airlines gathered at the Hotel Nacional to form a cartel. Such is the state of the Cuban economy that many of the aircraft in the island look as though they were around to ferry the original delegates. Yet just as the lumbering old pre-Revolutionary Buicks and Cadillacs have bestowed chic on the Cuban capital, so, too, has the ageing fleet of aircraft acquired a certain appeal to tourists. The Aerotaxi enterprise does not hire out executive jets; instead, it operates a fleet of singleengined Soviet biplanes. Places on these aircraft are popular with day-tripping tourists, who arrived on aircraft equipped with the latest "fly-by-wire" technology and wish to experience some retro "fly-with-wire" aviation. These eight-seaters fly in formation, and the sight of five of them taking off in sequence is remarkable. If you prefer a bit more comfort (but not much), you may be pleased to learn that the authorities have decided to upgrade their tourist fleet by purchasing a DC-3 for use on day trips.

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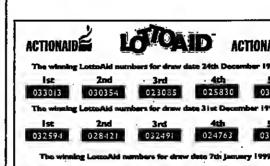


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managed vessels MS Venezia and MS Viking manageu vesses pio venezua anu pio visting Bordeaux which will be our base for visiting Venice itself, the islands of Burano and Torcello, and across the lagoon to the ancient port town of Chioggia. The tariff includes return flights from London, transfers and cruise, full board, accommodation in an outside facing cabin with en suite facilities, UK departure tax and services of a knowledgeable local guide. January to April are ideal months to visit Venice,

away from the crowds of summer, with the visitor thus being permitted time and space in stand and gaze and marvel at it all.

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ments: Single cabin supplement £95. Supplement for the Venice Carnival period (Feb 6-17, 1999) departures: Feb S & 15 £39 and Feb 4 & 11 £49. Urper Deck caben supplement £39 INB · MS Bordeaux has 2 upper decks). Comprehensive excursion package £65.

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Alex, 38, architect. And family. Loves golf,

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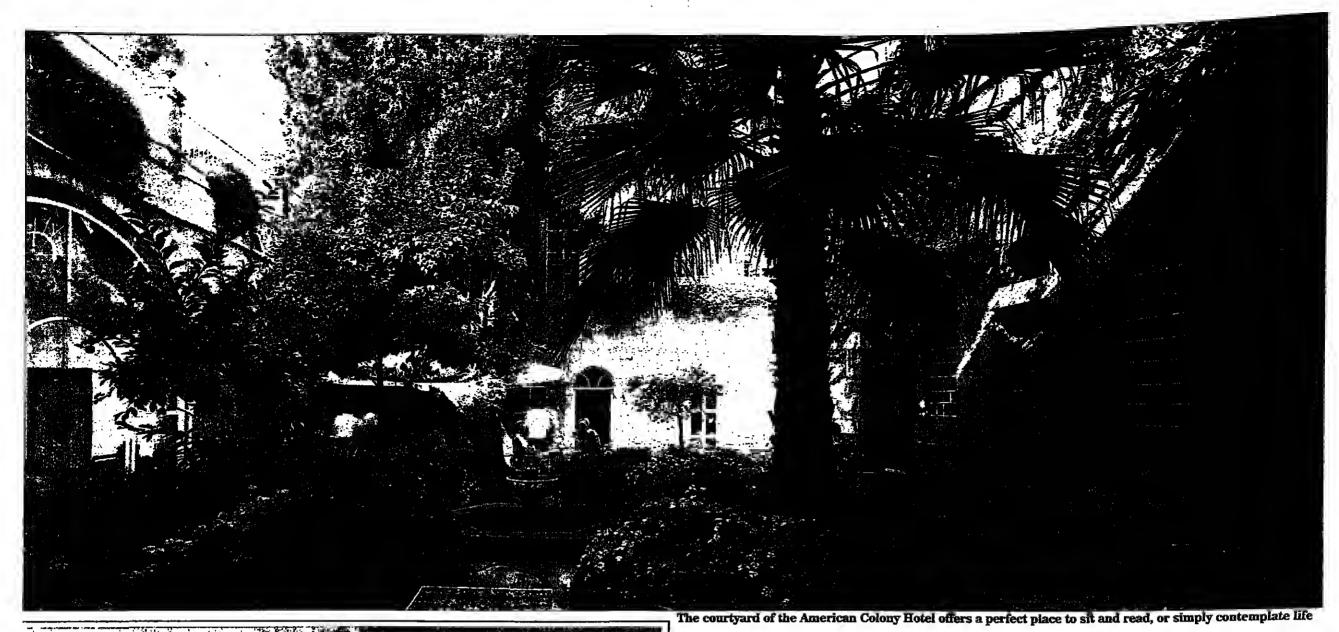
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An oasis of calm in a stormy city

If you're going to Jerusalem, there's really only one place to stay - a luxury hotel with a unique history. By Cathy Packe

Christianity, while Israelis and American Colony Hotel. Palestinians jostle for living space. According to the travel advice from the Foreign Office, the locatinn has been too risky for British visitors on at least two recent occasions - hundreds of holiday-makers were brought home early just before Christmas. Currently, however, the advice is that British nationals visiting Israel should simply "keep in touch with developments". Which means, for the time being at least, that Jerusalem is back on the visitor's map. And, of course, it's an intensely rewarding destination - especially if you stay in

EARLY

the city's prime location. The American Colony is a luxury hotel that has retained the atmosphere of a family home. It is, and always has heen, neutral territory, and people on different sides of the religious and political argument have traditionally used it as a place to meet and express

their views freely. The original American colony was the family of Horatin Spafford, a church elder from Chicago. He and his wife were blamed when five of their six children died. Driven nut of their community, they went to Jerusalem in search of spiritual peace, accompanied by several other members of the church. The group settled in the Old City in 1881 and kept open house, a tradition their descendants still foster in the hotel When they were joined by sympathisers from Sweden, they

o city in the moved out into what was then discreet waiters seem to know change... except, that is, the still countryside. where they bought the house of the local Ottoman governor, or pasha. It was this building, with neighmeasily with various strains of that eventually became the

The pasha lived in luxury with his four wives, each of whom had two rooms of her own, one on the ground floor for summer, and another on the warmer first floor for winter. Despite extensive renovations, all the rooms have their original vaulting and arched windows, and other details, including the 19th-century tiles and painted ceilings, have been preserved. The place now known as the

Pasha's Room was where he received visitors. There are arches in the middle, a beautiful painted ceiling and large windows that open out on to a large terrace. In summer this is covered with a bedouin-style tent, and cushions are strewn on the floor. It is a wonderful place to sit and read, or simply to contemplate life. The pasha's lifestyle was

the complete opposite of that led by the Spaffords and their community, who moved in and became self-sufficient, setting up small husinesses which served the local area. The community was run along the lines of a modern kibbutz, long before that movement started, and it became known as the American Cnlony.

A hundred years later, the hntel is a wonderful haven. The food is hnme-cooked, a considerable attraction in a country not renowned for its culinary charms. The pool is designed to catch the sun for large parts of the day; it has a big terrace area, and the

automatically when you may like a freshly-squeezed orange

juice, or something stronger. Given such pleasant surroundings, it is hard to tear. yourself away to visit the city. for a double. An office opposite the hotel's. chauffeur-driven cars and taxis, but the hotel is only a short walk from the walls of the Old City and the Damascus Gate. You will pass close to the Garden Tomb, which according to myth was where the body of Christ was buried. Continuing due south down the Nablus Road you will soon reach the hustling

area around the Damascus Gate. It is usually possible to walk along part of the ramparts, although, of course, the political situation makes everything in Jerusalem liable tn sudden

American Colony Hotel.

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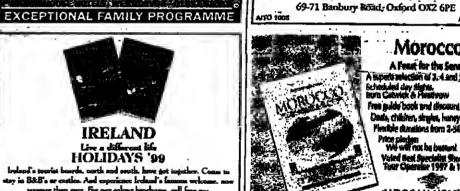
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Cape of good times

The south-western tip of Portugal roffers an intriguing base to explore the Algarve. By James Von Leyden

western extremity of continental Europe, lies Cabo de São Vicente. For the Romans, this windswept promontory marked the limit of the known world. It was a sacred spot, the Promontorium Socrum, where the sun sank into the ocean each night in a blazing fireball. In 1797 the cape marked the site of a decisive sea battle between Britain and Spain.

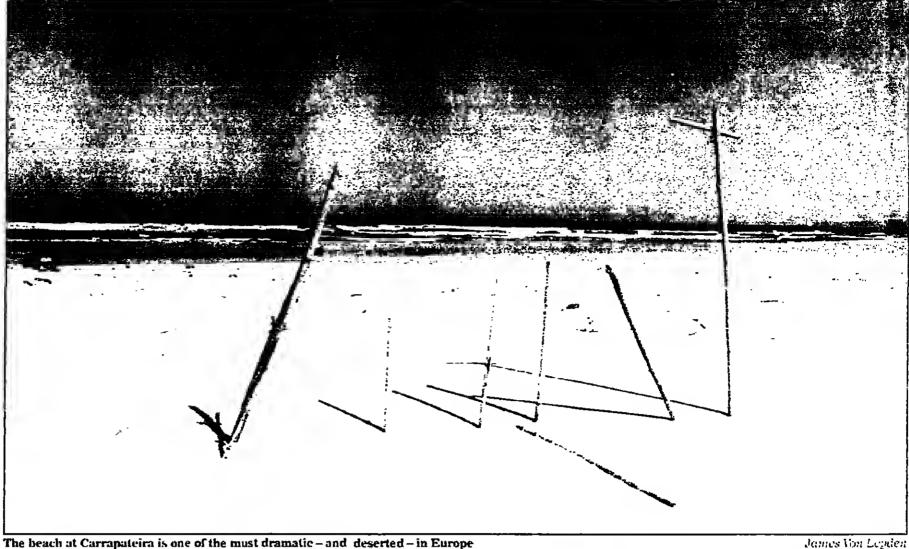
These days, two rather different hordes converge on Cape St Vincent, From the east, from their high-rise apartments in Albufeira, package tourists come to peer over the headand and eat hot dogs under the sign Letze bratwurst vor Amerika". From the north come surfers - tattooed road warriors heading down from the beaches of Odeceixe, Arrifana and Carrapateira.

Sagres, where the coaches and camper vans meet, is a blustery onehorse town. Its 15th-century school

t the tip of the Algorye, on the south-graphers, mariners and astronomers. Here shipwrights designed the caravelas, the revolutionary threesailed ships that took Magellan and Vasco da Gama on their voyages of exploration to Africa and India. The coastline is now protected by a national park. Take a walk along the clifftops and you'll see peregrines swooping around the cliff-face while Atlantic rollers pound the rocks.

Twenty miles north of Sagres lies Carrapateira. Hemmed in by sand dunes and buffeted by constant northerly winds, the beach of Carrapateira is one of the most dramatic and desolate in Europe. Its bracing climate discourages all but a handful of surfers, watkers and horse riders. Around the headland lie sheltered coves where you can swim and sunbathe.

Carrapateira is an excellent base to explore the hinterland. The marshy river valley is home to osprey and herons. You can walk or ride up through eucalyptus and



The beach at Carrapateira is one of the must dramatic - and deserted - in Europe

Monchique, a verdant mountain range which forms the northern boundary of the Algarve. Along the roadside you will see gnarled cork oaks, their trunks stripped and daubed with the date of harvesting. Although the western Algarve is an important centre of cork production, it is one of Europe's most deprived

chestnut groves into the Serra de Union Development Fund has spuosored a programme of road-building in an effort to open up the interior. An hour's drive along one such road brings you to the spa town of Caldas de Monchique. Nestling in a

ravine of eucalyptus and plane trees, Caldas de Monchique has been a favoured destination for health seekers since Roman times. In the 19th regions. Tourism has yet to make an century wealthy Spaniards came the orea), but in winter it moy be impact here, although the European here to take the waters. Trails wind

up from Monchique to Pico de Picota, a 770-metre rocky outcrop from where you can see Cape St Vincent, the beaches of the southern Algarve and, on an exceptionally clear day, the hills of Spain.

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Where to stay, in Carrapateira the vill**o** Casa Fajara 100 (15 1 82 97 123) chorges £55 per tiefn room. The three-star Albergama Velina 109 35 1 82 91 01 20) in Caldas de Monchique costs around E22 per night for a facin room, Between May and October, try the Albergaria Lugedo 100 35 1 82 91 26 16) in Caldas de Monchique it boasts on outdoor swimming pool planted with camellia and

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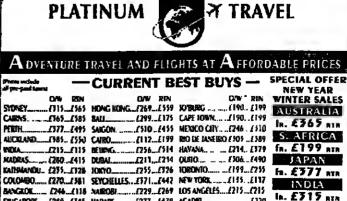
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Escape from Avoriaz ...

An early encounter with a French snowboarder prompted Stephen Wood to explore further afield. He didn't regret it

he suggestion by the mayor of the small resort of La Bresse, in the Vosges, that gendarmes should be posted on ski slopes, made the front pages of many French newspapers last week. In a quiet perlod for news - and high season for sking - mayors of resorts all over France were consulted on their views (almost unanimously negative) of the initiative, which had been prompted by four accidents in three days at La Bresse, all involving injuries and all caused by

To keep the story going, Le Parision sent a reporter to Avoriaz, in the Portes du Soleil ski area, where he conducted a straw poll among skiers on whether the conduct of snowboarders warranted police surveillance. He quoted at length Clara Deboux, a skieuse parisienne "terrorised" by snowboarders (or *surfeurs*, as they are termed). Safety on the pistes had, sbe said, been reduced by the "new race known as surfeurs. They come from nowbere, and cut across in front of you. They are a permanent source of concern.

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No doubt interviewing a skieuse parisienne was more appealing than talking to a middle-aged Lond-oner staying for the week in Avoriaz. But I could have given the reporter a better story, perhaps with the headline "Piste menace claims another victim".

My experience of skiing in Avoriaz vas short and bitter. I set off down The narrow track - crowded with beginners - which leads to the main lift base. Towards the bottom, it has the added hazard of a pylon right in the middle. It was here, about 90 seconds after I had clicked into my bindings, that a snowboarder flew into me.

looked like a good launch-pad to him; so, hurtling down to its right, he suddenly carved a sharp left-hand turn, took off, and executed what would have been a 360-degree mid-air spin if I hadn't been minding my own busioess on the left-hand side of the pylon. He made it to about 270 de-

grees before landing on me. Of course there's never a gendarme around when you need one and I could only explain explicitly what he was, in English and then - once I had collected myself and my ski poles - in French.

At Avoriaz, it's difficult to recover quickly from such a sbock, because 30 per cent of the resort's clientele are snowboarders (thanks to its reputation for having pioneered facilities for them! When the characteristic swooshing and crunching of a snowboarder in your wake couses apprehension and anxiety, Avoriaz is no place to be, and in my dark mood, the drawbacks of the place multiplied. It was hellishly crowded, for a start tnot the resort's fault but mine, for going there between Christmas and the new year); the piste map was the worst I have ever come across; and the purpose-built mid-Sixties resort, with its jagged, timber-faced apartment towers. looked as if it bad been designed by a matchstick-model maker.

The list of complaints might have grown longer, but I did not ski in Avoriaz again. Because one of its virtues is that it is so easy to leave - from Avoriaz it is possible to ski to nine of the other resorts in the Portes du Soleil area, a great loop of skiing, crossing several valleys plus the border between Switzerland and France, and offering 650km of pistes and 212 lifts.

The commuter traffic within the Portes du Soleil is predominantly me by flying snowboarders.

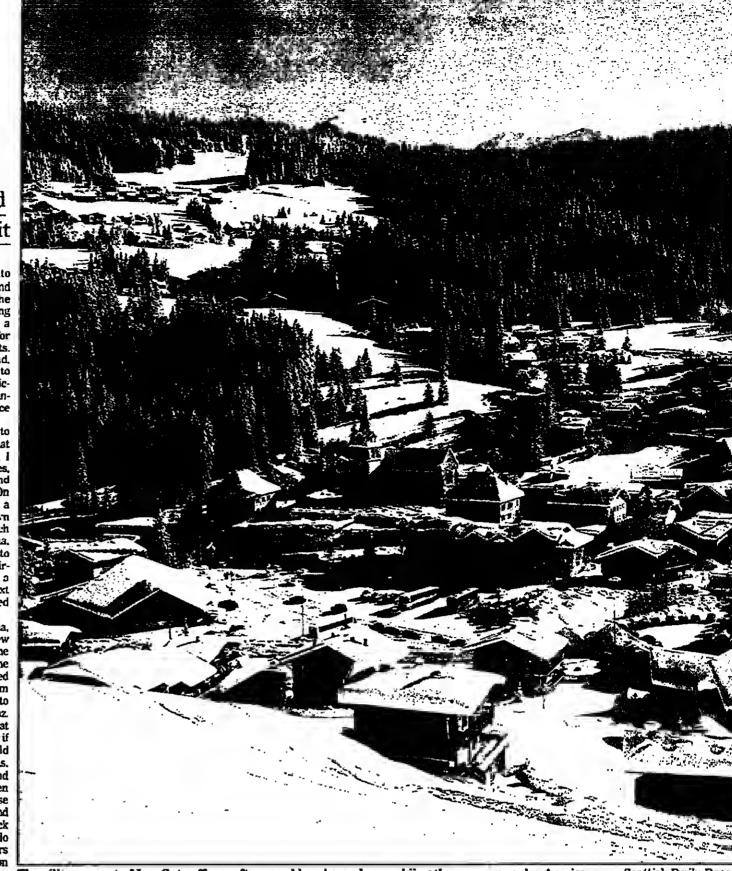
The pile of snow behind the pylon made up of skiers heading into Avoriaz, which is the highest and most snow-sure resort with the most challenging skiing. But, going in the opposite direction, I had a choice of destinations. I plumped for the small, family resort of Les Gets.

An easy, 25-minute trip by road, the journey on skis from Avoriaz to Les Gets is one of the most complicated links in the Portes du Soleil, involving five lifts and one surface transfer across Morzine.

The skiing at Les Gets, split into three areas, is much softer than that of Avoriaz. But it was just what I wanted: quiet, with short lift queues, plenty of room on the pistes, and mercifully few snowboarders. On the western side of the village is a largish, open ski area running down from the Mont Chery ridge, on which there is a superb Alpine panorama. the peaks (including Mont Blane to the south east) all identified on a circular orientation table. Beyond it a red run sweeps down into the next valley, with a jolly, heavily mogulied black piste running alongside.

To the west is the main ski area, mainly red runs uncluding a few woodland adventures; but with some nursery slopes set high above the village. Finally, there are the wooded slopes beyond the Pléney ridge, from which blues and reds run down to Morzine, on the route back to Avoriaz.

I have reason to be grateful for that snowboarding hooligan at Avoriaz: if our paths had not crossed, I would probably not have skied at Les Gets. But I shall be grateful, too, if he and his buddies are back at school when I next venture to Avoriaz. Because then I'll be able to enjoy its skiing, and have a crack at the legendary black run, the "Wall" of Chavanette. I do prefer to create my own disasters rather than have them visited upon



The village resort of Lec Gets offers softer - and less hazardous - skiing than more popular Avoriaz

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NEW FILMS

LITTLE VOICE (15)

Director: Mark Herman

Starring: Jane Horrocks, Michael Caine Holed up in her bedroom, timid North Country sparrow LV (Jane Horrocks) perfects strident Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations. then falls in with Michael Caine's impresario, a

low-rent, Bermuda-shirted huckster. Where Mark Herman's last film, Brassed Off, was a whole and solid effort, Little Voice proves altogether more bitty and piecemeal. Bracing black comedy, Horrocks's vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from the rejuvenated Caine push it through to the final curtain. Countrywide

π (151 Director: Darren Aronofsky

Starring: Sean Gullette, Mark Margolis Aronofsky's pungent debut idles in a kind of anteroom between maths lesson and art class, as Sean Gullette's New York oumber-cruncher ponders a numerical code behind the boly Hebrew texts. What sustains π is the pure-blood ingenuity of its central conceit, its oogoing "mathematics is Countrywide the language of nature" mantra. It all adds up.

PSYCHO (15)

Director: Gus Van Sant Starring: Vince Vaughn, Anne Hecha

Homage or sacrilege? Whichever camp you fall into, Gus Vant Sant's shot-by-shot Psycho reconstruction is a bizarre undertaking. Hefty Vince Vaughn stands in for twitchy Anthony Perkins, Anne Heche for Janet Leigh, and Julianne Moore for Vera Miles. In the meantime, Van Sant simply runs through a karaoke cover-version of the Hitchcock classic. File this one under "White Elephants". Countrywide

THE SIEGE (15) Director: Edward Zwick

Starring: Denzel Washington, Bruce Willis

A rare Hollywood attempt to get to grips with contemporary geopolitics, The Siege winds up a hopelessly fingers-and-thumbs affair. The nominal hook (Muslim terrorist bombing in New York) gets draped with all manner of garbled goings-on as Denzel Washington's FBI man rubs shoulders with Bruce Willis's gung-bo army renegade.

Xan Brooks

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE THREE BEST FILMS



The Acid House (18) A trio of interrelated shorts (left) culled from

the stories of Irvine Welsh. Debut director Paul McGuigan turns this into a bit of a triumph, adapting his style well to the shifting landscape of Weish's tales. A cracker, all told.

Mulan (U)

In Disney's animated tale, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her ailing father from certain death in combat. This movie has it all, and is one of the most visually innovative films that Disney has ever made.

Out of Sight (15)

Steveo Soderbergh's tale of love on opposite sides of the law knocks spots off previous Elmore Leonard adaptations, and boasts in Jennifer Lopez and George Cloooey the swoooiest cinematic pairing of the year.

XAN BROOKS AND ANTHONY QUINN

THE THREE BEST PLAYS

Arabian Nights The Young Vic

Another rich Young Vic Christmas feast (right) attaches jump-leads to the avid audience's imagination. To 23 Jan

Just Not Fair

Birmingham Rep Moving account by Jim Robinson of 18 vears' wroogful imprisonmeol of the Bridgewater Four. Will be performed in rep with Wilde's equivalent prison testament, De Profundis. To 30 Jan

Present Laughter West Yorkshire Playhouse

Ian McKellen dons the Noël Coward dressiog-gown and gives a scintillating, high-coergy performance in this enjoyable production. To 23 Jan

PAUL TAYLOR

GENERAL RELEASE

THE ACID HOUSE (18)

See The Independent Recommends, above.

ANTZ (PG)

Surely the most unlikely Woody Allen movie we will ever see. The nerd icon allegedly re-wrote the bulk of his dialogue to provide the voice of worker-ant "Z" who falls in love with the regal Princess Bala (Sharon Stone).

THE APPLE (SIB) (PG)

Seventeeo-vear-old Samirah Makhmalhaf's precocious debut stages a true-life recreation of the fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters. This is a luminous missive from a burgeoning Iranian film scene.

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

In the follow-up to Babe, the hapless "sheep-pig" finds himself looking after strays in the city. Knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animatronic fairytale.

THE BOYS (18)

Out of jail after serving time for GBH, oldest "boy" Brett Sprague (David Wenham) moves back into his mum's drab suburban home. Potent, predatory stuff. Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder.

DANCING AT LUGHNASA (PG) This Ireland-set saga is given a backbone by Meryl

Streep's regal performance.

ELIZABETH (15)

largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story See The Independent Recommends, above. of independence triumphing over cruelty.

THE EXORCIST (25TH ANNIVERSARY RERELEASE) (18)

Pulled into the light, Friedkin's seminal borror is still efficiently terrifying.

LOCK, STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy falls into the former category; but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is a dangerous old-school pro.

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

This gaudy swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio THE MIGHTY (PG)

Peter Chelsom's film is a tale of two outcast kids in a storybook Cincinnati. Stolid and a tad predictable, though there's a glimmer of soul showing through.

In his follow-up to Bandit Queen, Shekhar Kapur MULAN (U)

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

Ken Loach's solid social-realist drama tells the tale of Joe (Peter Mullan), a recovering alcoholic torn between his old life and his new (a romance with Louise Goodall's health visitor). My Name is Lean". Joe brilliantly spotlights the thwarted ambitions of 8 Britain caught below the poverty line.

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

Samuel L Jacksoo and Kevin Spacey go head to bead in F Gary Gray's thrilling drama. The script has a predilection for swearing that sounds quite uneasy in the mouths of such articulate, rhetorical performers.

OUT OF SIGHT (15) See The Independent Recommends, above. THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

The Parent Trap catches Disney re-heating its 1961 beart-warmer into a spry, cross-cultural caper.

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (U)

Sublime cinema. George Cukor's movie has a strange and melancholy heart and Katherine Hepburn's unsatisfied heiress sheds real tears.

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U) Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged his cartoon life of Moses,

"painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David

RONIN (15)

John Frankenheimer's 40 years as a feature director lend an air of knackered resignation to this tired espionage thriller about a gang of mercenaries.

RUSH HOUR (15)

Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker star in this action movie which has been a big box-office hit.

SITCOM (18)

In this scattergun satire of middle-class mores,

Fraoçois Ozon takes abundant pleasure in dismantling a standard nuclear family.

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION IPGI

A belated Christmas gift for Trekkies the land over, Insurrection bits the cinemas stuffed with in-the-know gags and is wrapped up in more comball romance than we're used to.

TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT (PG)

This movie has come to be more highly regarded for its history than its narrative content. Conceived as a Casablanca cash-in, and adapted from what Hawks reckoned to be Hemingway's worst novel, this wartime drama is credited with getting Bogart (then an unhappily married megastar! together with 19year-old Bacall. The taut, proficient plot has Bogart's Martinique-based skipper sandwiched between the Vichy government and the Free French resistance. Hawks directs with a pointed, easy grace.

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15)

Robin Williams perfects a lopsided simper as the dead chappie who lights out to a cod-Impressionist beaven, before jetting off to rescue his suicide-bride.

CINEMA COUNTRYWIDE

ABERDEEN

ODEON (08705-050007); Star Trek; Insurrection (PG); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Psycho (15); The Siege (15); Enemy of the State (15); Lictle Voice (15): The Prince of Egypt (U)

VIRGIN CINEMA (0541-202050): The Mask of Zorro (PG); Rush Hour (15); Psycho (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); Egypt (U); Little Voice (15); The Acid House (18); Babe: Pig in the City (U): Antz (PG): The Parent Trap (PG): The Siege (15); What Dreams May Come (15)

MAC (0121-440 3838); Henry Fool (18); My Name Is Joe (15); Character

OOEON (08705-050007); Rush Hour (15); Antz (PG); Mulan (U); Little Voice (15); Enemy of the State (15); The Exercist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) (18); The Mask of Zorro (PG); What Dreams May Come (15); Psycho (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); The Parent Trap (PG); The Siege (15);

The Prince of Egypt (U) ARCADIAN CENTRE VIRGIN CINEMA (0541-555177); The Mask of Zorro (PG). The Siege (15): Antz (PG): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): Enemy of the State (15): The Prince of Egypt (U): The Parent Trap (PG): Psycho (15); Rush Hour (15); Little Voice (15); What Dreams May Come (15)

GREAT PARK VIRGIN CINEMA GREAT PARK VIRGIN CINEMA (0121-453 0465): Out of Sight (15): Small Soldiers (PG): Rush Hour (15); The Siege (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Little Voice (15): Babe: Pig in the City (U); Batman Forever (PG); Enemy of the State (15): Antz (PG); The Prince of Carpet (15): All Mast Parent Mark Carpet (15): Egypt (U): What Dreams May Come (15): Psycho (15): Blade (18): The Parent Trap (PG); The Negotiator (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG)

ABC CHURCH STREET (01253-24233); The Parent Trap (PG); The Prince of Egypt (U); Enemy of the State (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); Psycho (15)

ODEON (08705-050007); Babe: Plg in the City (U): What Dreams May Come (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG): Little Voice (15); Rush Hour (15); Psycho (15); The Parent Trap (PG): Blade (18); The Slege (15); The Prince of Egypt (U): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); Enemy of the State (15): Anz. (PG) the State (15); Antz (PG)

BOLTON
BOLTON VIRGIN MEGAPLEX (Valley
Centertainment) (0870-907 0714): Space
Jam (U): The Siege (15): Small Soldiers
(PG): Blade (18): Psycho (15): (PG): Blade (18): Psycho (15): Enemy of the State (15): Antz (PG): The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U): Mulan (U): Rush Hour (15): What Dreams May Come (15): Kuch Kuch Hota Hal (PG): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): The Mask of Zorro (PG): Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18): Little Voice (15): Babe: Pig In the City (U)

WARNER VILLAGE (01204 66998a): Dilwale Dulhania le Jayenge (PG); Rush Hour (15): The Slege (15): Psycho (15); Enemy of the State (15): Babe: Pig In the City (U): The Prince of Egypt (U); Little Voice (15): What Dreams May Come (15): James and the Glant Peach (U): The Mask of Zorro (PG); The Parent Trap (PG); Antz (PG): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG)

ODEON (08705-050007): The Siege (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); The Parent Trap (PG); The Prince of Egypt (U): Ene-my of the State (15): Hope Floats (PG)

CITY CINEMA (01228-514654): The Parent Trap (PG): Little Voice (15); Babe: Pig in the City (U): Le Bossu (15): Psycho (15)

LONSDALE CINEMAS (01228-514654); Godzilla (PG): Enemy of the State (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): Antz (PG): The Mask of Zorro (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U); The Siege (15); Titanic (12)

CLYDEBANK

UC1 (0990-888990): The Mask of Zorro (PG): The Slege (1S): My Name is Joe (1S): Babe: Pig in the City (U): The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U): The Soldier (Asian Film) (NC): Little Voice (15): The Acid House (18): What Dreams May Come (15): Psycho (15); Mulan (U); Ever After (PG); Rush (15): Antz (PG): Enemy of the Stat

COVENTRY

ODEON (08705-050007): Sliding Doors (15); Enemy of the State (15); Psycho (15); The Parent Trap (PG); Mulan (U); Antz (PG); The Siege (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); The Prince of Egypt (U); Babe: Plg in the City (U): Little Voice (15)

UCI 10 (0990-888990); Star Kid (PG); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): Babe: Pig in the City (U): The Parent Trap (PG): Antz (PG): Elizabeth (15): Enemy of the State (15): Psycho (15); Mulan (U): State (15); Psycho (15); minima (0); The Siege (15); The Prince of Egypt (U); The Mask of Zorro (PG); What Dreams May Come (15); Small Soldiers (PG); Little Voice (15); Doli Sajake Rakhna

DONCASTER

ODEON (08705-050007); The Parent Trap (PG); The Prince of Egypt (U); Mulan (U); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); The Siege (15); Enemy of the State (15);

WARNER VILLAGE (01302-371371); Rush Hour (15): The Parent Trap (PG): En-emy of the State (15); The Prince of Egypt (U): Psycho (15): Babe: Pig in the City (U); What Dreams May Come (15); Star Trek; Insurrection (PG); The Mask of Zor-Glant Peach (U): The Siege (15): Antz (PG)

ODEON (08705-050007): Mulan (U); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); The Parstar frex: insurrection (PG); file Parent Trap (PG): Psycho (15): Rush Hour (15): Little Voice (15); Babe: Pig in the City (U); The Siege (15): The Mask of Zorro (PG): Enemy of the State (15); The Prince of Egypt (U)

EDINBURGH ABC FILM CENTRE (0131-228 1638): The Parent Trap (PG); Enemy of the State (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); Psycho (15); The Prince of Egypt (U)

ABC WESTER HAILES (0131-442 2200); The Prince of Egypt (U); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); The Mask of Zorro (PG): The Parent Trap (PG): Small Soldlers (PG); Rush Hour (15): The Siege (15): Little Voice (15): Enemy of the State (15): What Dreams May Come (15): The Acid House (18): Antz (PG): Psycho (15); Babe: Pig in the City (U) CAMEO (0131-228 4141); Out of Sight

(15): Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (18): The Acid House (18): The Fisher King (15): π (Pi) (15): Twelve Monkeys (15): Buffalo 66 (15): My Name is DOMINION (0131-447 4771): Little Voice (15): There's Something About Mary (15); Antz (PG): Babe: Pig in the City (U); The Parent Trap (PG): Enemy

of the State (15) ODEON (08705-050007); The Siege (15); The Magic Sword: Quest for Camelot (U): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): The Mask of Zorro (PG); Little Voice (15): Psycho (15): Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) (PG): Enemy of the State (15): Mulan (U): The Prince of Egypt (U)

UCI (0990-888990); The Siege (15); Antz (PG); Enemy of the State (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Babe: Pig in the City (U);
Psycho (15): What Dreams May Come
(15): Little Voice (15): Star Trek:
Insurrection (PG): The Parent Trap
(PG): Rush Hour (15): Mulan (U):
The Mighty (PG): The Acid House (18): The Prince of Egypt (U); Kudrat (PG)

ABC CLARKSTON ROAD (0141-637 2641); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); Psycho (15); Enemy of the State (15); The

Parent Trap (PG); The Prince of Egypt (U) ABC SAUCHIEHALL ST (0141-332) 592); The Siege (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Psycho (15); What Dreams May Come (15): The Prince of Egypt (U)

THE BOMBAY CINEMA (0141-419 0722); Kudrat (PG); Kuch Kuch Hota Hai (PG)

CALEDONIAN GROSVENOR (0141-339 4298); Small Soldiers (PG); Psycho (15); The Parent Trap (PG); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG) ODEON (08705-050007); The Slege (15); Psycho (15); Enemy of the State (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG); The Parent Trap (PG); Little Voice (15); The Prince OF

Egypt (U): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG) SPRINGFIELD OUAY (08705-050007); The Acid House (18): The Mighty (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U); My Name is Joe (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): The Parent Trap (PG); Psycho (15); What Dreams May Come (15); Enemy of the State (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Little Voice (15); Babe: Pig in the City (U): Out of Sight (15): Rush Hour (15); The Slege (15); Small Soldlers (PG)

VIRGIN FORGE PARKHEAD (0541-555136): The Prince of Egypt (U); Psycho (15); The Slege (15); Little Voice (15): Babe: Pig in the City (U); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): The Mask of Zorro (PG); Antz (PG): What Dreams May Corne (15): The Parent Trap (PG); Enemy of the State (15)

ABC CINEMA (01472-342878); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); The Siege (15); The Parent Trap (PG): Enemy of the State (15); Good Burger (PG); The Prince of Egypt (II) of Egypt (U)

HUDDERSFIELD

UCI HUDDERSFIELD (0990 888990); UCI MUDDERSHELD (0990 888990); Ever After (PG): Prem Aggan (NC): The Slege (15): The Parent Trap (PG); Enemy of the State (15): Mulan (U): The Mask of Zorro (PG): Psycho (15): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): Rush Hour (15): Little Voice (15): The Prince of Egypt (U): Saving Private Ryan (15): Antz (PG)

ODEON (08705-050007); What Dreams ODEON (08705-050007); What Dreams May Come (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); Flubber (U): Little Volce (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG); The Slege (15): Dr Dollittle (PG): Antz (PG): Psycho (15); Saving Private Ryan (15); Rush Hour (15); Small Soldlers (PG): Enemy of the State (15); The Prince of Egypt (U); The Parent Trap (PG); Babe: Pig in the Clty (U): Mulan (U)

UCI 8 ST ANDREWS QUAY (0990-888990); The Mask of Zorro (PG): 888990); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Babe: Pig in the City (U): The Parent Trap (PG); Little Voice (15); Psycho (15); What Dreams May Come (15); Ever After (PG): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); Rush Hour (15); Antz (PG); Enemy of the State (15); Wajood (PG): The Siege (15); The Prince of Egypt (U)

CALEDONIAN CINEMAS (01463-233302); The Slege (15): Babe: Pig In the City (U); Miracle On 34th Street (1994 Version) (U): The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG) EDEN COURT THEATRE (01463-

234274); Henry Fool (18); La Vie de Jésus (The Life of Jesus) (NC); The Secret Garden (U); My Name is Joe (15); Way Out West & The Music Box (U): The Secret Garden (U) WARNER VILLAGE (01463-7)1147); Psycho (15): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Enemy of the State (15): What Dreams May Come (15): The Mask of Zorro (PG): Little Voice (15): The Prince of Egypt (U); The Slege (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); The Parent Trap

(PG); James and the Giant Peach (U)

KILMARNOCK ABC (01563-525234); The Parent Trap (PG); The Prince of Egypt (U): Psycho (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): Enemy of the State (15)

ODEON KILMARNOCK (08705-050007): ODEON KILMARNOCK (08705-050007):
Babe: Pig in the City (U); The Acld House
(18): Mulan (U); Rush Hour (15); The
Mask of Zotro (PG): Enemy of the State
(15): Little Voice (15); A Goofy Movie
(U); Psycho (15); The Slege (15);
The Parent Trap (PG): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); The Prince of Egypt (U)

ABC CINEMA (0113-245 2865); Rush Hour (15); Babe: Pig in the City (U): The Prince of Egypt (U); Psycho (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); Antz (PG)

COTTAGE ROAD CINEMA (0113-230 2562); Little Voice (15): The Parent Trap (PG); Babe: Pig In the City (U) HYDE PARK (0113-275 2045): Slums

of Beverly Hills (15); Funny Games (18); LOUNGE (0113-230 2562); The Prince of Egypt (U); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG)

OOEON (08705-050007); The Mask of Zorro (PG): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): The Slege (15): Little Voice (15): Enemy of the State (15): Girls' Night Out (NC): The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U)

WARNER VILLAGE (0113-279 9855): The Mask of Zorro (PG): Rush Hour (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): What Dreams May Come (15); Little Voice (15); James and the Giant Peach (U); Enemy of the State (15): The Parent Trap (PG); Psycho (15); The Prince of Egypt (U); Antz (PG); The Slege (15): Babe: Fig in

OOEON FREEMENS PARK (08705-050007): The Mask of Zorro (PG); Psycho (15): Enemy of the State (15): The Parent Trap (PG); Saving Private Ryan (15): Lost in Space (PG); Godzif-In Space (PG); GodziiIa (PG): Out of Sight (15); What Dreams
May Come (15); The Prince of Egypt (U);
Little Voice (15); Toy Story (PG); Star
Trek: Insurrection (PG); The Siege (15);
Flubber (U); Antz (PG); Babe: Pig in the

WARNER VILLAGE (0116-282 7733); What Dreams May Come (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): The Parent Trap (PG): The Siege (15); Psycho (15): Enemy of the State (15); The Prince of Egypt (U): Antz (PG); The Mask of Zorro (PG): James and the Giant Peach (U): Little Voice (15); Babe: Pig in the City (U): Rush Hour (15)

ABC ALLERTON (0151-724 3550); Anastasia (U); Star Trek: Insurrection

ODEON (08705-050007); Enemy of the State (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); The Siege (15); The Prince of Egypt (U): Psycho (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG): Little Voice (15)

PLAZA (01514474 4076); Zero Effect

(15): The Parent Trap (PG): Enemy of the State (15): Babe: Pig in the City (U); The Siege (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PGI: The Prince of Egypt (U) VIRGIN CINEMA (0541-555146): Enemy of the State (15); Antz (PG): The Parent Trap (PG): Little Voice (15): Rush Hour (15): The Mask of Zorro (PG): Psycho (15): Star Trelc insurrection (PG): The Slege (15): What Dreams May Come (15): The Prince of Egypt (U)

WOOLTON PICTURE HOUSE (0151-428 1919): The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG)

MANCHESTER ARENA SEVEN CINEMAS (0161-839 ARENA SEVEN CINEMAS (U101-003)
0700): Antz (PG): The Parent Trap
(PG): The Siege (15): Lock, Stock & Two
Smoking Barrels (18): Star Trek:
Insurrection (PG): The Mask of Zorro
(PG): What Dreams May Come (15):
The Prince of Egypt (U): Psycho (15):
Freene of the State (15) Enemy of the State (15)

CINECITY (0161-445 8131); The Prince of Egypt (U); Enemy of the State (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG)

ODEON (08705-050007); The Mask of Zorro (PG): The Parent Trap (PG): Psycho (15): Little Voice (15): Enemy of the State (15): Out of Sight (15): The Siege (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); The Prince of Egypt (U) UCI TRAFFORD CENTRE (0870-603 4567): The Prince of Egypt (U): Antz (PG): Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18): Saving Private Ryan (15): Psycho (15): Wajood (PG): Kuch Kuch

Hota Hal (PG); Babe: Pig In the City (U); Blade (18): Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate (NC): The Mighty (PG): Elizabeth (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): Mulan (U) Small Soldlers (PG): Dil To Pagal Hai (PG): Kudrat (PG): Enemy of the State (15): The Siege (15); The Parent Trap (PG); The Mask of Zorro (PG): Rush Hour (15); Out of Sight (15); Little Voice (15): There's Something About Mary (15): What Oreams May Come (15)

MIDDLESBROUGH ODEON (08705-050007); The Parent Trap (PG); The Prince of Egypt (U); Little Voice (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): The Siege (15): Enemy of the

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE ODEON (08705-050007): Hope Floats (PG); Enemy of the State (15); The Siege (15); Small Soldiers (PG); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); Little Voice (15); The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince of

WARNER VILLAGE (0191-221 0222): Psycho (15): The Prince of Egypt (U): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): Uttle Voice (15): Rush Hour (15): The Parent Trap (PG): What Dreams May Come (15): Babe: Pig In the City (U): Antz (PG): The Siege (15); Enemy of the State (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG)

NORTHAMPTON THE FORUM CINEMA (01604-401006): The Governess (15); Saving Private

VIRGIN CIN':MA (0541-560564):
The Parent Trap (PG): What Dreams May
Come (15): The Siege (15): Rush Hour
(15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG);
The Mask of Zorro (PG): Babe: Pig in
the City (U): Psycho (15): The Prince
of Egypt (U): Enemy of the State
(15): Roald Dahl's Matilda (PG);

MOTTINGHAM ABC CINEMA (0115-947 5260); Antz (PG): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); The Prince of Egypt (U); What Dreams May Come (15); Psycho (15)

ODEON (08705-050007); The Mask of Zorro (PG): The Parent Trap (PG); Babe: Pig in the City (U): Enemy of the State (15): The Prince of Egypt (U): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): Little Voice (15); The Slege (15): Rush Hour (15)

SAVOY (0115-947 5812); Star Trak: Insurrection (PG); Babe: Pig in the City (U); Antz (PG); Psycho (15); The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Enemy of the UCi 10 (0990-888990); Babe: Plg in the City (U); Kuch Kuch Hota Hal (PG);
Antz (PG): The Mask of Zorro (PG):
Rush Hour (15): Bade Miyan Chote
Miyan (NC): The Siege (15): Star Trek:
Insurrection (PG): Mulan (U): Ever
After (PG): The Parent Trap (PG):
Enemy of the State (15): Twillight (15):

Enemy of the State (15): Twilight (15); Little Voice (15); The Prince of Egypt (U): What Dreams May Come (15); WARNER VILLAGE (01772-881100): The Prince of Egypt (U): Antz (PG): James and the Giant Peach (U): Rush Hour (15): Babe: Pig in the City (U): The Slege (15): What Dreams May Come (15): Little Voice (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): Psycho (15): The Mask of Zorro (PG); The Parent Trap (PG): Enemy of the State (15) Enemy of the State (15)

ODEON (08705-050007); Psycho (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); Babe: Pig in the City (U); Enemy of the State (15): Little Voice (15): The Prince of Egypt (U): The Mask of Zorro (PG): The Parent Trap (PG): Out of Sight (15); What Dreams May Come (15): Rush Hour (15); The Slege (15): Blade (18); Antz (PG) UCI CRYSTAL PEAKS 10 (0990-888990); Rush Hour (15); Antz (PG); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); Psycho (15); What Dreams May Come (15); The Slege (15);

Little Voice (15); Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate (NC); Babe: Pig in the City (U); The Prince of Egypt (U): The Parent Trap (PG); Mulan (U): Small Soldiers (PG): The Mask of Zorro (PG); Enemy of the State (15) VIRGIN (Dom Valley) (0114-242 1237): Rush Hour (15): There's Something About Mary (15): Psycho (15): Saving Pri-vate Ryan (15): Batman Forever (PG): Small Soldiers (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U): The Negotiator (15): The Last Days of Disco (15): Babe: Pig in the City (U): The Parent Trap (PG): The Mask of Zor-ro (PG): Little Voic: (15): Star Trek: Inro (PG): Little Voice (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): Ronin (15); Mulan (U); The Siege (15): Enemy of the State (15); The Truman Show (PG); Out of Sight (15); Kuth Kuth Hota Hai (PG); Blade (18); Antz (PG): What Dreams May Come (15)

WARNER VILLAGE (0114-256 9222): Enemy of the State (15); The Prince of Egypt (U): Little Voice (15); Antz (PG); The Siege (15): James and the Giant Peach (U): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): Psycho (15): The Parent Trap (PG): What Dreams May Come (15): Babe: Pig In the City (U): Rush Hour (15): The Mask

STOKE-ON-TRENT ABC CINEMA (01782-212320): The Siege (15): Enemy of the State (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); The Prince of Egypt (U): The Parent Trap (PG)

FILM THEATRE (01782-411188): Love is the Devil (18)

ODEON (08705-050007); The Prince of Egypt (U); What Dreams May Come (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); Blade (18): The Siege (15); Psycho (15); Enemy of the State (15): The Parent Trap (PG): Rush Hour (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Out of Sight (15); Little Voice (15); Antz (PG); Babe: Pio in the City (U) Babe: Pig in the City (U) TAMWORTH

OPEON (08705-050007); The Prince of

UCI 10 (0990-888990); The Parent Trap (PG); Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate (NC): The Siege (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Little Voice (15); Star Trek: inro (rd), Ede voice (15); Star Irek: Insurrection (PG); Antz (PG); Rush Hour (15); Babe: Pig in the City (U); Psycho (15); What Dreams May Come (15); Enemy of the State (15); Small Soldiers (PG); The Prince of Egypt (U); Mulan (U)

WARRINGTON

UCI 10 WESTBROOK (0990-888990):
Enemy of the State (15): Rush Hour (15):
Psycho (15): Babe: Pig in the City (U);
The Slege (15); What Dreams May Come
(15); Little Voice (15): Antz (PG):
The Prince of Egypt (U); The Parent Trap
(PG); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG):
Doli Sajake Rakhna (NC): Mulan (U); The
Mask of Zorro (PG)

WREXHAM
ODEON CINEMA (08705-050007]; Antz
(PG): Little Voice (15); Babe: Pig in the
City (U); Mulan (U); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): MouseHunt (PG); Psycho
(15); The Prince of Egypt (U); Small Soldiers (PG); Dr Dollttle (PG); Enemy of
the State (15); The Parent Trap (PG);
The Mask of Zorro (PG); What Dreams
May Come (15); The Magic Sword: Quest
for Camelot (U); The Slege (15)

(15): The Taste of Cherry (Ta'M-e-Guilass) (PG): 1 Want You (13): Das Boot: The Director's Cut (15); Dracula, Prince of Darkness (18); The Winter Guest (15): The Big Red One (NC); The Truman Show (PG): The Masque of the Red Death (18)

CITY SCREEN (01904-612940); Cube

ODEON (08705-050007): The Prince of Egypt (U): The Parent Trap (PG); The Siege (15); Enemy of the State (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG)

WARNER VILLAGE (01904-691094); The Parent Trap (PG): The Siege (15); Psycho (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); What Dreams May Come (15): The Prince of Egypt (U); Babe: Pig in the City (U); Enemy of the State (15); Small Soldiers (PG); Rush Hour (15); Antz (PG): James and the Giant Peach (U); Little Voice (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG)

> CINEMA REPERTORY

ELECTRIC CINEMA (0121-643 7277) Dancing at Lughnasa (PG) Sat, Sun 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 9pm; also Mon-Thur 5pm, 9pm On Connaît la Chanson (PG) Sat. Sur 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm; also Mon-Thur 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm The Fountainhead (PG) Sat-Thur 6.45pm

BRADFORD NMPFT (PICTUREVILLE) (01274-732277) Small Soldiers (PG) Sat 1.30pm Fire (15) (1) Sat 3.30pm, 8.15pm; also Mon 1.15pm, Sat 3.30pm, 8.15pm; also Mon 1.15pm; 6pm, Tue 1.30pm Henry Foot (18) Sat 5.45pm; also Sun 5pm Bellywood Movie (PG) Sun 1.30pm, 7.30pm Men with Guns (15) Mon 3.30pm, 8.15pm; also Tue 1.30pm Left Luggage (PG) Tue 6.15pm; also Wed 4pm, 8.30pm, Thur 2pm, 6.15pm The General (PG) Tue 8.15pm Lock, Stock & Tiwo Smoking Barrets (18) Wed

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COVENTRY WARMOK ARTS CENTRE (01203-524524)
Still Crazy (15) Sat 4pm, 9pm; also Sun
4pm, Mon 9pm The Truman Show (PG)
Sat 6.30pm; also Sun 7.30pm Angels with Dirty Faces (NC) Mon 6.30pm Casablan-ca (U) Tue 6.30pm Land & Freedom (15) Tue, Wed 9pm The Searchers (PG) Wed 6.30pm Builitt (NC) Thur 6.30pm

2pm, 6.15pm; also Thur 4pm, 8.30pm

MANCHESTER

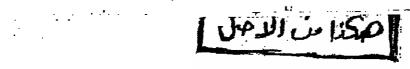
CORNERHOUSE (0161-200 1500) Little Voice (15) Sat. Tue-Fri 1.5Spm, 4.10pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm; also 5un 1.55pm, 4.10pm, 8.40pm To Have and Have Not (PG) Sat. Sun, Tue-Thur 2pm. 6.05pm; also Mon 6.05pm Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (U) Sat 2.05pm Sitcom (18) Sat, Sun, Tue-Thur 4.05pm, 8.10pm; also Mon 8.10pm The Mighty (PG) Sat, Sun 6.10pm, 8.20pm; also Mon 8.20pm, Tue, Thur 2.05pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.20pm, Wed Arm 8.20pm, The Pier Stars 8.20pm, Wed 4pm, 8.20pm The Big Sleep (15) Sun 8.25pm; also Mon 6.10pm Theorem (18) Wed 2.05pm, 6.10pm

TYNESIDE CINEMA (0191-232 8289)
Prince Vallant (PG) Sat 1.30pm The
Mighty (PG) Sat 3.45pm: also Sun
3.45pm. 8.15pm. Mon 4.15pm, Tue,
Wed 6.15pm. Thur 4.15pm, 8.30pm
Little Voice (15) Sat 4.30pm, 8.30pm;
also Sun 1.30pm, 8.30pm, Mon Thur Little Voice (15) Sat 4.30pm, 8.30pm; also 5un 1.30pm, 8.30pm, Mon, Thur 6.30pm, 8.30pm, Tue, Wed 4.15pm, 8.30pm, Fri 5.45pm La Vie Revee des Anges (18) Sat 6pm, 8.15pm; also Sun 6pm, Mon 3.45pm, 6.15pm, Tue 3.30pm, 5.45pm, Wed 5.45pm, Thur 3pm, 8.15pm Portishead: PYNC (NC)/To Kill a Dead Man (NC) Sat 6.30pm Mary, Queen of Scots (NC) Sun 4pm Flame (12) Sun 6.30pm Lou Reed: Rock and Roll Heart (NC) Mon 8.45pm Metallica Untitled (NC) Tue 8pm Kundur (12) Wed 3pm, 8pm; also Thur 5.30pm, Fri 10.30am

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

SHEPFIELD
THE SHOWROOM (0114-275 7727)
Jason and the Argonauts (PG) Sat, Sun
2pm The Mighty (PG) Sat, Tue 2.10pm,
4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm; also Sun
2.10pm, 8.10pm, Mon 2.10pm, 6.10pm,
Wed 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, Thur
2.10pm, 4.20pm, 8.40pm, Fri 2pm,
4.10pm, 6.20pm 8.30pm Little Voice (15)
Sat, Mon-Fri 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.45pm,
8.50pm; also Sun 2pm, 4.10pm, 6.15pm,
8.20pm Fear and Loathing In Las Vegas
(18) Sat, Mon, Tue, Thur 2.50pm, 8.20pm;
also Sun 5.50pm, Wed 2.50pm, 6.10pm,
On Connalt Ia Chanson (PG) Sat 6pm,

also Sun 5.50pm, Wed 2.50pm, 6.10pm On Connalt Ia Chanson (PG) Sat 6pm, 8.30pm; also Sun 5.30pm, Mon-Thur 2.15pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Boys (18) Sat, Mon 6.30pm; also Sun 2.50pm, 8.20pm 8 1/2 (15) Sun 5.20pm; also Men 8.10pm His Girl Friday (U) Sun 8.30pm Angel Sharks (15) Tue 6.10pm; also Wed 8.40pm The Ride (15) Wed 8.40pm; also Thur 6.40pm also Thur 6.40pm



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PAUL TAYUNK

BILLINGHAM BILINGHAM FORUM Red Riding Hood Keith Harris and Orville star g & 10 Jan. 1.30pm & 6pm. £9. concs £7. Town Centre

TRMINGHAM MEXANDRA THEATRE A Tale of Two Cities Paul Nicholas stars in this new musical adaptation of the Charles Dickens novel. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed, Thur & Sat 2.30pm, no mars 14 Jan. ends

6 Jan. £7-£24.50. Suffolk Street

(0121-643 1231) BIRMINGHAM REP A Christmas Carol Michael Bogdanov directs a new adaptation of Charles Dickens's Victorian tole of greed and redemption. 9 & 16 Jan, 2.30pm,

9. 11-16 Jan. 7.15pm. £7.25-£19, corcs available. Broad Street 1-236 4455) THE DOOR - BIRMINGHAM Fourteen Songs, Two Weddings and a Funeral Stage version of a Bol-lywood blockbuster 9 Jan. 7.45pm.

£9. concs £7. De Profundis Oscar Wilde's tour de force of self-analysis, featuring Corin Redgrave. 13 & 14 Jan. 7.45 pm. ends 29 Jan £9, concs £7 Broad Sireet (0121-236 4455)

HIPPODROME Cinderella Danny La Rue and Brian Conley stars as Baroness Voluptua and Buttons. bundant pleasure m 7.15pm, 10 Jan, 1pm & 5.15pm, 13 & 14 Jan, 2pm, ends 20 Feb. £9.50-£17_50, concs available. Hurst. Sircer (012)-622 74861

BLACKPOOL GRAND THEATRE Aladdin Magical family panto starring Wayne Sleep as The Slave of the Ring. 9 Jan. 2pm & 7pm, 10 Jan, 1pm & Spm. E6-£13.50, concs available. Church Street (01253-290190)

DUNDEE P. NOEE REPERTORY THEATRE Lungle Book A charming adap-tation of kipling's tale about Mowell and his jungle friends, 9 Jan. 2.30pm & 7.15pm. ends 9 Jan. £9-£10.25.

concs available. The Killing of Sister George Cornedy of sexual politics centering on the axing of a radio soap star. Tue-Sat, 7,45pm, ends 30 Jan. F7 50-E12. concs available Tay Square (01382-223530)

KING'S THEATRE The Adventures of Aladdin The magical experience of panto for all the family starring David Rintoul, Allan Stewart and Gerard Kelly. 9, 13, 16 Jan, 2pm, income commercial the dead occurs the maintheaven 9, 12-16 Jan, 7pm; 10 & 17 Jan

pm & 5.15pm, ends 17 Jan. £7.50-E1/_50. concs available, Leven Street (0) 529 6000) ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE The Snow Oveen Stuart Pater-soo's charming adaptation of Anderson's fairy tale, 9 Jan, 7pm. £4-

The Deep Blue Sea Terence Ratti-gan's powerful play about the agony of misdirected desires. From 15 Jan, Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, ends 6 Feb. £7-£16, concs from £1. Grindlay Street (0131-248 4848) **GLASGOW**

KING'S THEATRE Sleeping Beau-ty Elaine C Smith stars in this magical fairy tale production. Mon-Sat. 7pm. mats 9 Jan, 2pm, 12-14 Jan, 1pm, ends 16 Jan £2.50-£15, concs available. Bath St (0141-287 5511)

PAVILION THEATRE Pinocchio The Krankies and Jimmy Cricket deliver a magical panto treat. 9 Jan. 2pm, 9, 12-15, 7,30pm, 10 Jan, 5.30pm, 13 Jan, 1.30pm, ends 23 Jan £6-£9.50, concs available. RenJield Street (0141-332 1846)

HULL TRUCK THEATRE Gold! Hull Truck's story of five college friends who re-unite in an attempt to recreate their student days. Mon-Sat 8pm, ends 16 Jan. £5 50-£10. eones available. Spring Street (01482-323638)

EDEN COURT THEATRE Peter Pan Flyaway iun with siren from Gladia-tors and Tich McCooey 9 Jan, 2 15pm & 7pm £6 50-£12.50, concs available Bishops Road (01463-234234 cc 234274).

WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE: COURTYARD THEATRE The Nutcracker Hoffman's tale of the Sugar Phum Fairy, 9 Jan. 10am, 11, 12, 14, 15 Jan. 1.30pm, ends 23 Jan. £5.50-£17.

Present Laughter Ian McKellen plays temperamental actor Gary Essendine in Noel Coward's witty comedy about theatrical life Mon-Sa 7.4Spm, mats 9 & 13 Jan. 2.30pm, ends 23 Jan. £8-£17, concs £5.50-£14.50. Playhouse Square (0113-

WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE: QUARRY THEATRE Martin Guerre Boubil and Schonberg's musical love story. Mon-Sat 7,30pm, mats Tue & Thur-Sat 2pm, ends 13 Feb. £8-£24, cones £8-£13 50, Playhouse Square (0113-213 7700)

HAYMARKET THEATRE Single' in the Rain High water mark of American musicals. Mon-Sat 7.30pm mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, continu ing. £7-£19.50. 8elgrave Gate (0116-253 9797)

LIVERPOOL EVERYMAN THEATRE Jumpin Jack Flash Rock froil pants 9 Jan, 2,30pm. 9. 11-15 Jan, 7,30pm. 13 Jan, 1,30pm, ends 30 Jan, £5,95-£11.95. Hope Street (01\$1-709 4776)

NEPTUNE THEATRE Peter Pan Former Gladiator Eunice flies in to save the Lost Boys from the scheming Captain Hook, played by cornedian Leslie Gibson. 9 & 10 Jan, 2pm, 9 & 10 Jan. 7pm. £7-£10, cones £5 £8. Hanover Street (0151-709 7844)

MANCHESTER OPERA HOUSE Offwer! Gary Wilmot stars in Lionel Bart's Dickensian musical, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat 2,30pm, ends 30 Jan. £10-£29. Quay Street (0161-242 2503/cc 831 77331

PALACE THEATRE CInderella Jim Davidson directs a family panto for a change, starring Darren Day and Ruth Madoc. 9, 13, 14 Jan. 2,30pm & 7.30pm, ends 24 Jan. E7.50-£15.50, concs available, Oxford Street (0161-242 2525)

ROYAL EXCHANGE THEATRE SHEFFIELD CRUCIBLE THEATRE South Pacif-

Hindle Wakes The Royal Exchange re-opens with the production which was cut short by the bomb likest in 1996. 9 Jan. 4pm & 8pm £7-£73, concs available

Martin Yesterday Brad Fraser's follow-up to Poor Super Man is an exploration of sexuality and contemporary mores. From 13 Jan. Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm, mats Wed 2.30pm, Sat 4pm, ends 6 Feb. £7-£23, concs available, 5t Anne's Square (0161-833 9833)

MANCEIEID PALACE THEATRE Peter Pan Gareth Hunt stars. 9 & 16 Jan, 1 pm. 9 Jan 4.15pm, 11-15 Jan, 2 15pm & 7pm £6-£8.50, concs avallable. Leeming Street (01623-633133)

NEW RRIGHTON FLORAL PAVILION Dick Whitting ton and His Amazing Cat Panto fun with Peter Simon from Live and Kicking and John Burgess, who plays David (Bing) Crosbie in Brookside, 9, 13, 16 Jan, 2,15pm, 9, 13, 16 Jan, 7pm, 10 & 17 Jan, 3pm. £5.50-£7.50, concs available. Virginia Road (0151-639 4360)

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE THEATRE ROYAL Cinderella Popular pantomime with stars from TV's Curonation Street and EastEnd 9, 12-14 Jan. 2pm, 9, 11-15 Jan, 7pm, ends 23 Jan. E5-£ 15, concs available. Grey Street (0191-232 2061)

NOTTINGHAM NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE Jack and the Beanstalk Kenneth Alan Taylor writes and directs his lifteenth consecutive pantomine for Nottingham Playhouse. 9 & 12 Jan, 2.30pm, 11-15 Jan, 7.30pm £9-£12, child £5-£8, East Circus Street

THEATRE ROYAL Dick Whittingto Spectacular pantomime starring Les-ley Joseph, John Nettles, Jeffrey Holland and Hikury Minster 9, 12-14 Jan, 2pm, 10 Jan, 1 30pm & 5pm. 9, 12-15 Jan, 7pm £8-£15, corics available. Theatre Square (0115-989 5555)

OXFORD APOLLO THEATRE

Jesus Christ Superstar Tim Rice and Lloyd Webber's acclaimed Biblical cal. 9 Jan, 3pm & 7.30pm, E7.50-E24.50, concs available. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Fun panto starring Gladiator Hunter and Denise Nolan, 12-16 Jan, 2,30pm & 7.30pm, £9-£11, concs available George Street (01865-244544)

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL LAN-CASHIRE A Soldier's Song Guy Mas-tersoo performs his own adaptation of Ken Lukowiak's book about the Falklands conflict, 13 Jan, 7.30pm. £4, concs £3, (01772-893001)

SCARBOROUGH STEPHEN JOSEPH THEATRE: MC-CARTHY AUDITOR Cheap And Cheerful A new musical revue written and directed by Alan Ayckbourn. 9, 12-15 Jan. 7.45pm, ends 30 Jan. E9-£12.50, concs available. Westborough (01723-370541)

STEPHEN JOSEPH THEATRE: THE ROUND The Boy Who Fell into a Book Alan Ayekbourn's 12th play for and finds himself a character in the book he was reading. 9 Jan. 2.30pm. E9. concs £4.50. Westborough (01723-370541/cc 3788631

EXHIBITIONS

it to this heartwarming Rodgers and Hammerstein musical. 9 & 13 Jan. .30pm, 9, 11-15 Jan. 7.30pm, ends BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY Burne-Jones Work by 23 Jan. £11-£1\$, concs available Nortalk Street (0114-276 9922) Sir Edward Burne-Jones, Mon-Thur, Sat 10am-5pm, Fri 10.30am-5pm, Sun 12.30pm-5pm, ends 17 Jan £5.

LYCEUM THEATRE Jack and the Beanstalk Gladiator Vogue stars. £3.50 concs, £14 family. Chamber-9. 10. 13. 14 Jan. 2pm. 10 Jan. 5.30pm, 9. 12-15 Jan, 7pm, ends lain Sq (0121-303 2834) 17 Jan. £6.50-£14.50. Norfolk EDINBURGH Sireei (0114-276 9922) NATIONAL GALLERY OF SCOT-

k Banish the winter blues with a vis

14 Jan, 5pm, ends 27 Feb. £5-£30. The Winter's Tate Seasonal tale of obsessive jealousy directed by Gregory Doran. 12 & 15 Jan. 7.30pm, ends 4 Mar. £7-£30. Waterside

trait of all-consuming sexual desire.
Michoel Attenborough directs.

9, 12-14 Jan, 7.30pm, 9 & 14 Jan, 1.30pm, ends 20 Feb. £5-£30.

15 Jan. 7.30pm, ends 20 Feb £5 £30. Waterside (01789-2956231

GRAND OPERA HOUSE Jack and

the Beanstalk With TV stars from

Gladiators and Home and Away.

9 Jan. 2 30pm & 7 30pm. 10 Jan. 7pm £8-£12, cones available Cum-

I'HEATRE

WEST END

● KAFKA'S DICK Eric Sykes and

Julia Mackenzie star in Alon Ben-nett's comedy. Piccadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) & Picc

Circ. In rep. phone for details, ends 26 Feb. £12-£30.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE

● LYTTELTON: Cleo, Camping. Emmanuelle and Dick Terry John-

son's new play recreates Sid James, Kenneth Williams and Babs Windsor

on stage. In rep, phone for details, ends 16 Jan, 120 mins.

Jonathan Harvey's new play about the life of Hillsborough disaster

survivors, in rep phone for details, ends 16Jan, 120 mins, Lyttelton: £8-

£27. Cottesloe: £12-£18. Day seats

from 10am, South Bank, SE1 (0171-

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

452 3000), BR/O Waterloo,

● COTTESLOE: Gulding Star

berland Street (01904-671818)

(01789-295623)

SWAN THEATRE

LAND Turner Watercolours Display of 38 watercolours. Mon-Sai 10am-STOKE-ON-TRENT 5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 31 Jan, Iree. The Mound (0131-624 6200) THEATRE ROYAL HANLEY The Adventures of Robin Hood Starring Little and Large. 9, 10, 13, 14, 2pm, 10 Jan, 6pm, 9, 12-15 Jan, 7. 15pm. SCOTTISH NATIONAL GALLERY OF MODERN ART John Maxwell 1905.

£7.\$0-£14, concs available. Pall Mail (01782-207777) 1962 Major retrospective including aintings, watercolours and drawings. Mon-Sal 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-STRATFORD-UPON-AVON 5pm, ends 14 Feb. £2.50, concs £1.50. Belford Rd (0131-624 6200) ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE The Llon, the Witch and the Wardrobe Adrian Noble directs Adrian Mitchell's adaptation of the CS Lewis classic. 9. 11, 13 Jan. 7.15pm, GALLERY OF MODERN ART 9 Jan. 2.30pm, 13 Jan. 1.30pm

Gallery of Modern Art New gallery, themed by floor, dedicated to Scottish art. Mon. Wed-Sat 10am-5pm, 5un 11am-5pm, free. Queen Street (0141-331 1854) FERENS ART GALLERY Helen

Chadwick Wide range of work by the late artist. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. Sun A Month In the Country Brian Friel's adaptation of Turgenev's por-1,30pm-4,30pm, ends 17 Jan. £1. child under 13 & Hull residents free Queen Victoria Sq (01482-613902) Trollus and Cressida Shakespeare's depiction of the human spiril un-dermined by bloody warfare. 9, 11. ABBOT HALL ART GALLERY Bridget Riley Retrospective of the lead-

ing optical artist. Mon-Sun 10.30am-5pm, ends 31 Jan. £2.80. OAP £2.50, NUS, child £1.25, fami-N £6.90. Abbot Hall (01539-722464) LIVERPOOL TATE GALLERY LIVERPOOL A Mythology: Salvador Dali Major works from the Florida Dali museum. Ends 31 Jan. £5. concs £2 50.

Cubism Paintings, sculptures and col-lages by Picasso, Braque and others. Modern British Art The refured galleries exhibit works from the National Collections. Urban Modern work examining city life. Tue-Sun & Bank Hols 10am-6pm. ends Apı, free. Albert Dock (0151-709 3223)

MANCHESTER WHITWORTH ART GALLERY
Chris Offo Challenging paintings inspired by the black music tradition,
comic and film characters and the resurgence of 1970s style. Ends 24 Jan, free, Burne-Jones Centenary Exhibi

sion Marking the centenary of Sir Ed-ward Buroe-Jones, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Suo 2pm-5pm, ends 21 Mar, free. University of Manchester, Oxlord Rd (0161-275 7452) NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

UNIVERSITY GALLERY An Invest-ment Bank's Collection Barings' early modern paintings, including works by LS Lowry and Lucien Pissarro. Mon-Eri 10am-Som, ends 15 Jan free, Sandylord Rd (0191-227 4424) WAKEFIELD

O THE PM: The Two Gentlemen of Verona Shakespeare's witty comedy is directed by Edward Hall in YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK rep, phone for details, ends 28 Jan. Jacques Lipchitz Twenty large Barbican Theatre: £5-£26. The Pil: £11-£18.50. Barbican Centre, £C2 bronzes displayed outside, Mon-Sun I lam-4pm, ends Mar, free. Bretton (0171-638 8891). BR/O Barbican. Hall (01924-830302)

CLASSICAL

THE QUEEN'S HALL

Scottish Chamber Orchestra/Ostman Symphonies by Haydn, Mozart and JS Back conducted by Arnold Ostman 9 Jan. 7.45pm, £5-£18, concs av. Edinburgh Quartet Premiere of a new work by Kenneth Dempster. 10 Jan. 2.30pm. £8, concs £5. lobano Strauss Gala A relebration of old Vienna in music and dance. 13 Jan. 3pm & 7.30pm. £6-£20. conçs avallable.

The Sorrel Quartet String quartet recital, 14 Jan, 7.45pm. £7.50-£10, concs available. Clerk Screen (0131-668 2019/cc 667 7776)

GLASGOW THE GLASGOW ROYAL CONCERT

HALL Johann Strauss Gala A celebration of old Vienna. 9 & 10 Jan. 7.30pm. £11.50-£19.50. Sauctuchail St (0141-287 5511)

MANCHESTER BRIDGEWATER HALL BBC

2nd Violin Coocerto with Rachov's 3rd Symphony 9 Jan. 7.30pm, 96-525 Halle/Arwel Hughes Grieg's Pi-ano Concerto and Vaughan Williams's 6th Symphony. 13, 14 & 17 Jan. 7.30pm. £6.50-£26. Lower Mosley Street (0161-907 9000)

Phlibarmonic/Sinaisky Prokofiev's

ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE OF MUSIC Manchester Havdrifest '99 The complete string quartets of Blayda played over a single weekend. 9 Jan. 9am. 10 Jan. 9.30am. £21 Oxlord Road (0161-907 5278)

OPERA

GLASGOW

MERCHANTS HOUSE Graeme Danby and Richard Peirson Formerly with Scottish Opera, this Luggly entertaining baritone performs favourites from the world of opera. 14 Jan, 12.45pm. £4, cones £3.50. ts £1. West George St (0141

LEEDS GRAND THEATRE Carmen Phyllida Lloyd's vibrant production of Bizet's evergreen classic for (North, 14 & 16 Jan, 7,15pm £42. New Briggate (0113-222 62221

DANCE

GLASGOW

THEATRE ROYAL Scottish Ballet: Cinderella John Fraser's production of the classic fairy tale. 9 Jan 2.15pm & 7.15pm. £3.50-£32 concs available. Hope Street (0141-

GRAND OPERA HOUSE

Moscow City Ballet: Sleeping Beauty The Russian company performs the popular fairy-tale ballet. 11-13, 15 & 16 Jan, 7.30pm. £12.50-£20. Moscow City Ballet: Giselle A tale of love and betrayal, 14 Jan, 7.30pm. £12.50-£20. Cumberland Street (01904-671818)

LITERATURE

BEVERLEY JOHN HEGLEY The ground-breaking poet shares his deceptively simverse. Playhouse Cinema (01482-881315) 14 Jan, phone for

NOTTINGHAM WORD An opportunity for local writers to present their work. Mait Cross Music Hall St James's Street (0115-941 1048) Thur 8.30-11pm, free.

COMEDY

EDINRURGH

THE STAND COMEDY CLUB TV's Frankie Boyle and Kevin Gildea with Jack and Paul, newcomer Graeme Thomas and compere Susan Morrison. 15 Jan. 9pm-11.15pm, York Place (0131-558 7272) £5.

MANCHESTER THE ICE BEER COMEDY THE-ATRE AT THE DANCEHOUSE Star of The Sunday Show and Big Break-fast Peter Kay performs his Great-est Hits. 15 & 16 Jan. 8pm. Oxford Road (0161-237 9753) £9.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE HYENA CAFE COMEDY AT HYENA CAFE The bost of C4's Gas Lee Mack, musical comic Pierre Rollins, Jo Caulfield. 15 & 16 Jan, 9pm, Leazes Arcade, Leazes Lane (0191-232 6030) adv £8, £9 on door inc lood.

CLUBS

BIRMINGHAM GOD'S KITCHEN AT THE SANC-TUARY Allister Whitehead and Seb Fontaine beadline this clamourous mght. 15 Jan. 9.30pm-4am, £8, mems £7 before 11pm, NUS £6.

Digbeth (0121-246 1010) DERBY PROGRESS AT TIME With Tall Paul John "00" Fleming, Pete and Russell, 9 Jan. 9.30pm-4am, £10,

mems £8. Mansfield Road (01332-345860) TECHNIQUE AT THE LOFT WITH Reprazent's DJ Die. 14 Jan, 10pm-late, £5. NUS £4. Friargate

(01332-381169) TRIUMPH AT THE TUNNEL Colin

Tevendale, Steven McCreery, Kevin McFarlane and Stephen Lee bouse, garage and more. 9 Jan, 11pm-3.30am, £8, concs £6. hitchell Street (0141-204 1000)

BACK 70 BASICS AT THE MINT CLUB Ashley Beedle guests with res-idents Ralph Lawson and James Holroyd. 9 Jan. 9.30pm-4ar mems £8. Harrison Street

NOTTINGHAM DROP THE BOMB AT THE BOMB With top guests Andrew Weatherall and Andy Smith. 9 Jan. 10pm-3am. £9, concs £7, Bridlesmith Gate (0115-950 6667)

MUSIC POP. JAZZ, FOLK, ETC

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE ARK, ANISEED COUCH, DELPHIN Former members of The Fall rhythm section top the bill. The Witchwood Old Street (0161-344 0321) 14 Jan.

BIRMINGHAM PAPA JOE'S ALL STARS Popular North London New Orleans outlit. Waterworks Club Waterworks Road

(0121-454 0212) 9 Jan. 8.30pm. EDINBURGH REBA MCENTIRE Mega-selling fe-

male country artist on debut Euro-pean tour. Festival Theatre Nicolson Street (0131-529 6000) 10 Jan. 8pm, phone for prices.

THE OFFSPRING Californian skatinged punkers air the album, Americana. Barrowland Gallowgate {0141-552 4601/cc 226 46791 10 Jan. 8pm, £10.

MERCURY REV Cosmic American rockers play their elegantly eccentric LP Deserter's Songs. G2 under The Garage Sauchieholf Street (0141-332 1120) 14 Jan, 8pm, £7.50.

UNKLE, IDLEWILD, DELAKOTA LLAMA FARMERS The NME Pre-mier tour stars James Lavelle's starry beats project, with Edin-burgh's brillian buzz-pop quartet playing their Hope is Important al-burn. Queen Margaret Union Uni-versity Gardens (0141-339 9784) 10 Jan. 8pm. £8.

MARTIN CARTHY Massively respected British folk veteran. Grove Back Row (0113-243 9254)

15 Jan. 8pm, phone for prices. MANCHESTER

MANCHES TER JOHN ETHERIDGE Soft Machine and King Crimsoo's prog.jazz guitarist, now playing acoustic. Band On The Wall Swan Street (0161-833 0682) 14 Jan, 8pm, £6.50.

EVENTS

ABERDEEN BEGINNERS STAMPING WORK-SHOP Learn the basics including care of your stamps, ink types and masking, dorrte doodle Bridge Street (01224-212821) 9 Jan, 10am-

EDINBURGH A SCOTTISH CLANSMAN Clothing and weaponry demonstration. Edin-burgh Castle (0131-225 9846) 13-14 Jan. 10am-4pm. Free with nission to the Castle

SCOTLAND'S RICH MOSS FLORA An (llustrated lecture on the bryophyte floras of Scotland, Royal Botanic Garden Inverleith Ro 552 7171) 14 Jan, 3pm, free,

GLASGOW GRUESOME GLASGOW: HORROR WALKING TOUR Hear about Glasgow's cruel past on a tour of gallows accompanied by tales of torture. George Square (0141-772 0022) 7pm daily, phone for details.

RADIO

INEMIA (CONTRACTOR) ganasa (PG) in Science 4/9 in the lander SUNDAY iz Chanson (PCI x 95 e de la comitación de l

TODE ING N. DOWN A FASCINATING LPEYILLE: . 121 - 122977) 5 (PG) - 1 - 1 - 136 m Fate (15) § 5 - 1 - 1 - 156m distumentary about the reclusive film Honry Fool (18) Sa Bodysteod Marie director Stanley · Men vach Gues men van und der Let Let 12 p. 201 hat 150m hat 150m Pot 15m

Kubrick (right). Looking for Stanley (5.45pm R3) features actors, technicians and writers shedding light on how this painstaking auteur manages to get his own way. There's gossip, too, regarding Eyes Wide Shut.

Radite 1 97 6-99 8M-t: FMJ 6.30 Kewin Greening, 16.00 Mark Goodler, 1.00 Lisa l'Anson. 3.00 Top of the Pops. 4.00 The Official UK Top 40, 7.00 Radio 1's Dance Anthems with Dave Pearce. 16.00 Trevor Nelson. 12.00 Emma 8. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

12.00 Emma B. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.
Radio 2
193-90 2MHz FMi 7.00 Don Mactean. 9.05 Steve
Winght. 11.00 Micharl Parkinson. 1.00 Desmond
Cartington. 3.00 By Popular Demand - George
Gertineth: a Stainway to Paradise, 4.00 The Crooners.
4.30 Sing Something Simple. 5.00 Parn Ayres. 7.00
Hugh Sculy. 8.30 Sunday Helf Hour. 9.00 Alan Keith.
10.00 Metoolm Laycock. 11.00 David Jacobs. 12.00
Ketrine Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.
Radia 3
302-2: 4MHz RM 6.00 On Airs 9.00 Brian Kay's
Sunkay Moming. 11.00 Arist of the Week Encore.
12.15 Music Neutrers. 1.00 The Padio 3 Lunchtime
Concert. 2.40 Larner. 2.00 Spirit of the Age. 4.00 100
Great Singers. 4.15 Centurions. 4.30 The Yeer. 5.45
Sunday Feature: Looking for Stanley, 6.30 Private
Passions. 7.30 Sunday Play: Tweith Night. 9.35 Choir
Works. 11.05 World Music. 11.30 RBC National
Orthestra of Wales. 12.10 Renaissance in the Crites
of Central America. 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.
Radio 4

Sunday Papers. 8.07 Sunday Worship. 8.45 Letter from America. 9.00 News; Broadcasting House. 10.00 News; Broadcasting House. 10.00 News; Bats from the Back of Beyond. 12.30 I'm Sony I Haven'i a. Clue. 12.58 Weather. 1.00 The World This Westend. 1.30 Counterpoint. 2.00 News; Gerdeners Westend. 1.30 Counterpoint. 2.00 News; Open Soite: The Rose and the Ring. 4.00 News; Open Book. 4.30 Poetry Piesse. 5.00 News; True Colours-Soite. Aid Poetry Piesse. 5.00 News; True Colours-Soite. Aid Poetry Piesse. 5.00 News; True Colours-Soite. Aid Poetry Piesse. 5.00 News; True Colours-Soite. Aid Poetry Piesse. 5.00 News; True Colours-Soite. Aid Poetry Piesse. 5.00 News; True Colours-Soite. Aid Poetry Piesse. 5.00 News; True Colours-Soite. Aid Poetry Piesse. 5.00 News; True Colours-Soite. Aid Poetry Piesse. 8.00 News; True Colours-News. 8.30 World of Mouth. 8.00 News; Weather Was. 9.30 Analysis. 10.00 News; The Westminster Was. 9.30 Analysis. 10.00 News; The Westminster without 8.30 Word of Mouth, 8.00 News; W Was, 9.30 Analysis, 10.00 News; The Westm Hour, 11.00 News; Hidden Treesures, 11.30 Something Understood, 12.00 News, 12.15 Eperimental Feature; Task to Sleep, 12.30 Th Sperimental Feature: Talk to Sleep, 12.30 The Late Story, Visitors, 12.48 Shipping Forecast, 1.00 As World Service, 5.30 World News, 5.35 Shipping Forecast, 5.40 Inshore Forecast, 5.45 Prayer for the Day, 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

1984-212.00 - 12.04 News: Shipping Forecast. Radio 5 Live

MONDAY

THE FIRST of a 10-parter for Woman's Hour of Jane Austen's epistolary novel,

Steed and Imelda Staunton are

78 10 82-1: PM 8.30 Zoe Bell, 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark Raddille. 4.00 Chris Moyles, 6.00 Dave Peerce. 9.00 Lamacq Live. 12.00 The Breezeblock, 2.00 Cilve Warren. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott

Milts. Ruedio 2
(98-9:,21,3-1; FM) 6.00 Surah Kennedy, 7.30 Wake Up to Wogen, 9.30 Ken Bruce, 12.00 Jimmy Young, 2.00 Ed Stewart, 5.05 Johnnie Walker, 7.00 Humphrey Lyttshon, 9.00 Big Band Legends Live, 8.30 Georgie Fane, 9.30 in the Days before Rock 'n' Roll, 10.30 Richard Allinson, 12.00 Ketrine, 2.00 - 4.00 Alex Legend

No 2. Rechmeninov: Symphony No 3 In A minor. 9.20 Possoript. 9.45 Ervin Schulhoff. 16.00 Voices. 10.45 Mising It. 11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Francis Poulenc. 1.00 - 6.00 Through the

(1961+tz) 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News Headines; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Perlament.



about a man prompted by a vision to go fishing in perilous conditions, set within a parallel contemporary tale: Author, Nick Darke (above), has a full-length work, The Riot, opening at the National later this year.

Radio 1 (97 6-92-8MHz FM) 6.30 Zoe Ball, 9.00 Sirnon Mayo. 12.00 Kevin Greening, 2.00 Mark Raddille. 4.00 Chris Moyles, 6.00 Deve Pearce. 8.00 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session. 16.00 Digital Update. 10.10 John Peel. 12.00 The Breezeblock. 2.00 Citve Warren. 4.00

Peet, 12.00 The Breezeblock, 2.00 Cilve Warren, 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

Radio 2 (88-90 CM-tz Ft.ft 6.00 Sarah Kennedy, 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan, 9.30 Kan Bruce, 12.00 Jimmy Young, 2.00 Ed Stewart, 5.05 Johnnis Walke, 7.00 Alan Freeman: Their Greatest Bits, 9.00 Nigel Ogden, 9.00 Vosburgh's Further Folies, 10.00 Susan Jeffreys Says Make It a Double, 10.30 Fichard Allinson, 12.00 Kanna Lesionich, 2.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester, Radio 3

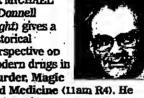
Raidle 3
(90 - 92 Juli-to FM) 8.00 On Aix 9.00 Masterworks.
19.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00
Composer of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00
Composer of the Week. Himsley-Korsakov. 1.00 The
Radio 3 Lunchtime Compent. 2.00 The BBC
Orchestras. 4.00 Volces. 4.45 Music Machine. 5.00 In
Tune. 7.30 Performance on 3. Penny Gore Introduces
a calibration of the achievements of Francis Poulenc,
one of the century's most successful composers of
vocal music. 9.40 Posteript. 10.05 BBC Scottish
Symphony Orchesta. 10.45 Night Waves. 11.30 Jezz
Notes. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Poulenc. 1.00 8.00 Through the Night.
Radio 4.

Page 3 April 19 April 6.00 Today: 9.00 News; No Triumph, No Tragedy: 9.30 The New Recruit. 9.45 Serial: The Doctor, the Detective and Arthur Conan Doyle. 16.00 News; Women's Hour. 11.00 News; Nature: Insight. 11.30 The Galton and Simpson Radio Nature: Insight. 11.30 The Gallon and Simpson Radio Playhouse. 12.00 News; You and Yours. 12.57 Weether. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Full Orchestra. 2.00 News; The Archers. 2.15 Attention Play: Beancock's Eve. 3.00 News; The Exchange: 0870 010 0444. 2.30 Tales from the Village. 3.45 This Septred Isle. 4.00 News; The Learning Curve. 4.30 Shop Talk. 5.00 PM. 5.57 Weether. 6.00 Skr O'Clock News. 6.30 The Cheese Shop Presents. 7.00 News; The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. 7.45 Lacty Sutem. 6.00 News; True Colours - South Africa Riday. 8.40 in Touch. 9.00 News; Case Notes Special: No Issue. 9.30 No Titumph, No Tragedy. 16.00 The World Tonight. 10.45 Book at Bedfitte; Nens. 11.00 The Patrick and Maureen Maybe Music Experience. 11.30 Talling Pictures. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Lete Book: Lest Resort. 12.48 Shipping. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 6.35 Shipping. 5.40 Instone Forecast. 5.45 Preyer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Ferming Today. Readio 4 L.W.

1984-1: 9.45 - 16.00 Dally Service, 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast, 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast, 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament. Readle 5 Live Reactio 5 Lives 1693 9094th: AMV) 6.00 Breaktest, 9.00 Nicky Composel, 12.00 The Middley News, 1.00 Ruscoe and Co., 4.00 Drive, 7.00 News Extra, 7.30 The Tuesday Match, 16.00 Lale Night Live, 1.00 Up Ali Night, 5.00

8.00 Morning Reports.
Westel Service Radio
(1984-t. LW) 1.00 The World Today, 1.30 On Screen.
145 Record News, 2.00 The World Today, 2.30
Watershed, 3.00 The World Today, 3.20 Sports Roundup. 3.30 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today. WEDNESDAY

DR MICHAEL O'Donnell (right) gives a historical



PRACTO 1 (97 6-99-84Hz FM: 6.90 Zoe Ball, 9,00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark Paddiffe. 4.00 Chris Mayles, 6.00 Dave Peurca. 8.00 Save Lamacq - the Evening Session. 19,00 Movie Update with Mark Kermode. 10.10 John Peel. 12.00 Gilles Peterson.

2.00 Clive Warren, 4.00 - 5.30 Scott Mills.

Radio 2 (8860 24th: FM 6.00 Sarah Kennedy, 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan, 9.30 Ken Bruce, 12.00 Jimmy Young, 2.00 Ed Stewart, 5.05 Johnnie Walfer, 7.00 Nick Barraciough, 8.00 Mice Harding, 9.00 The Andy Peebles Soul Show, 16.00 Route 66 Revised, 10.30 Richard Alimson, 12.00 Katrina Leskanich, 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lesta. 97 2-92 4MHz FMI 6.00 On Air, 6.00 Masterwork

190 2-92 -IMHz FAR 6.00 On Air. 6.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week: Rimsky-Korsakov. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 4.00 Choral Evensong. 5.00 in Tune. 6.00 Performence on 3. Live from the Eden Court Theatre, Inverness. Conductor Jerzy Maksymiuk, Ilya bin (piano). Alasdair Nicolson: Breakdance.
Rachmaninov: Plano Concerto No 3 in 0 minor. 8.55 Newe from North Britain. 9.15 Concert. pert 2.10.05 Postscript. 10.30 Cyril Scott. 10.45 Night Waves.
11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Poulenc. 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

Grenfell. 12.00 News; You and Yours. 12.57 Weather.
1,00 The World at One, 1.30 Wildbrain. 2.00 News;
The Archers. 2.15 Afternoon Play: Voyages of
Descent. 3.00 News; Gardeners' Question Time. 3.30
Tales from the Village. 3.45 This Sceptred Isla. 4.00
News; Case Notes Special: No Issue. 4.30 Thinking
Allowed. 5.00 PM. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock
News. 6.30 Live They've Newer Been Gone. 7.00
News; The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. 7.45 Lady
Susan. 6.00 News; Thern and Us. 8.45 Gerry's Ber.
9.00 News; Animais Behaving Badity. 9.30 Midweek.
18.00 The World Tonicht. 10.45 Book at Beditime: 16.00 The World Tonight. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Nans. 11.00 News; Sean Lock a 15 Mirutes of Misery. 11.15 For One Horrible Momens. 11.30 The Cheese 11.15 Por Crie Hornble Morners. 11.30 The Criessa Shop Presents. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Last Resort. 12.46 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 –

Football Night, 10.00 Limpeyont, 11.00 Labl regnt Live. 1.00 Up All Night, 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports. Werld Service Redio (1984:cl.) 1.00 The World Today, 1.30 Meridian, 2.00 The World Today, 2.30 Everywoman, 3.00 World Today, 3.20 Sports Roundup, 3.30 World Business Report, 3.45 Insight, 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today,

THURSDAY

CHOICE

comes Comedy Showcase - Relax! (9.30pm R2). First off is a skit in which the new owner of a health farm (Pauline

Radio 1 \$7.6.99 (M-L-F.W. 6.30 Zoe Ball, 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Kevin Greening, 2.00 Mark Raddille, 4.00 Chris Moyles, 6.00 Dave Pearce, 6.00 Steve Lamacq, 16.00 Trade Update, 10,10 John Ped, 12.00 Andy Kershaw. 2.00 Cive Warren, 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

8-90 2VH: P.G B.OB Sarah Kannedy, 7.30 Wake LID 184-0-20/15 F.M. 6.00 Sarah Rennedy. 7.30 Waske Up to Wogan. 6.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Ybung. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 David Allan. 8.00 Paul Jones. 9.00 Barry Took's Cornedy Classics: the Navy Lark. 9.30 Comedy Showcase: Relatel 10.00 Girls and Guitars. 10.30 Richard Allinson. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 6.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester. Radio 3

Radio 3
301-90 404: F11 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stones. 12.00
Composer of the Week. Rimsky-Korsakov. 1.00 The
Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 The 8BC
Orchestras. 4.00 Ensemble. 4.45 Music Machine.
5.00 in Tune. 7.30 Performance on 3. Live from the
Colston Hall, Bristol, Alexia Lubimov (piano),
Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment/Herbert
Blomstedt. 8.15 Book of the Month. 8.35 Concert,
part 2. 9.35 Postscript. 16.00 Music Restored. 10.45
Night Weves. 11.30 Jazz Notes, 12.00 Composer of
the Week: Poulenc. 1.00 - 8.00 Through the Night. the Week: Poulenc. 1.00 - 8.00 Through the Night.

[92 4-94 61 1-2 PM 6.00 Today, 9.00 News; In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg. 9.30 Transplantations, 9.4 Serial: The Doctor, the Detective and Arthur Conan Doyle. 16.00 News; Woman's Hour. 11.00 News; From Our Own Correspondent. 11.30 Old Dog and the Partridge. 12.00 News; You and Yours. 12.57 ions. 9.45 The Partinge, 12.00 News; Tou and Yours. 12.37 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Hidden Treasures. 2.00 News; The Archers. 2.15 Afternoon Play: Dogs. 2.00 News; Call You and Yours. 0870 010 0444. 3.30 Tales from the Village. 3.45 This Scaptrod Isle. 4.00 World of Mouth. 4.30 The Material World. 5.00 PM. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 The Worlders. 7.00 News: The Archers. 7.15 From 5.00 PM. 5.57 Weather, 6.00 Six O'Clock News, 6.30 The Worriers, 7.00 News; The Archers, 7.15 From Row, 7.45 Ledy Sussan, 6.00 News; Case History, 8.30 The Week in Westminster, 9.00 News; Testbeds, 9.30 In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg, 10.00 News; The World Tonight, 10.45 Book at Bedtime; Nana, 11.00 News; World of Pub. 11.30 Experimental Feature: The Lines of Example in 12.00 News; 12.30 The Linter of Example in 12.00 News; 12.30 The Linte Hand of Pub. 11:30 News, 12:30 The Late Book: Last Resort, 12:48 Shipping, 1:00 As World Service, 5:30 World News, 5:35 Shipping, 5:40 Inshore Forecast, 5:45 Prayer for the Day, 5:47 - 6:00 Farming Today. Radio 4 I.W

195-Hz; 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04

1354-1: 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04
News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57
Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.
Radio 5 Live
(\$33.9754-5.13) 9.00 Breakest. 6.00 Nicky
Campbell. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and
Co. 4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Edna. 7.30 Handest Game.
6.00 Inside Edge. 9.00 Hoops. 9.30 Sponshop. 16.00
Late Night Live. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00
Moming Reports Moming Reports. World Service Radio

FRIDAY

CHOICE DEREK JACOBI (right) gets to apply full tremolo to Mary Shelley's

Gothic classic. Frankenstein (9.15pm R2). The story, in which

a Genevan student turns bits of corpse into that icop of man-made misery, whose shadow looms large over current debates about genetic engineering, is split into six parts.

Radio 1
1916-29 AME 7M 8.30 Zoe Ball, 6.00 Simon Mayo.
16.00 Kevin Greening, 2.00 Mark Radcliffe, 4.00 Chris Moyles, 6.00 Pote Tong's Essential Selection, 9.00 Judge Jules, 11.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show.
2.00 Fabio and Groovender, 4.00 - 7.00 Emma 8.

Radio 2

58-0-2Mm; Fi.b 6.00 Sarah Kennedy, 7.30 Wake Up
to Wogan, 9.30 Ken Bruce, 12.00 Jimmy Young, 2.00
Ed Stewart, 5.05 Dee Lynam, 7.00 A Very British
Story, 7.30 Fixtay Night is Music Night, 8,15
Frankenstein, 9.30 Listen to the Band, 10.00 David
Jacobs, 10.30 Sheridan Morley, 12.00 Lynn Parsons,
4.00 - 6.00 Late Sharma.
Readio 2

Radio 3
190 2-92 -3.7 = 7.4) 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Arist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00
Composer of the Week. Pimsky-Korsakov. 1.00
Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 The BEC Orchestras. 4.00
Music Restored. 4.45 Music Machine. 5.00 In Tune.
7.30 Visions - the Music of Olivier Messiaen. Live from Westminister Cathedraf, the BBC Symphony
Orchestra launch their annual weekend of concerts.
This year, they celebrate the Iffa and work of French mester Olivier Messiaen. Conductor Andrew Dews,
Rosemary Hardy (soprano). 8.00 Messiaen and
Religion. 8.15 Concert, part 2. 9.36 Postscript. 16.00
Visions: the Music of Olivier Messiaen. 11.10
Olienbach. 11.30 Jazz Certury. 12.0 Composer of the Offenbach, 11.30 Jazz Century, 12.0 Composer of the Week: Poulenc, 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night, Radio 4

Redio 4 92 4.94 6MHz Flát 6.00 Today, 6.00 News; Desert Island Discs. 9.45 Serial: The Doctor, the Detective and Arthur Conen Doyle, 16.00 News; Woman's Hour. 11.00 News; Sentimental Journey, Woman's Hour. 11.30 The Oldest Mamber. 12.00 News; You and Yours. 12.57 Weather, 1.00 The World at One, 1.30 Screen Test. 2.00 News; The Archers. 2.15 Afternoon Play: The Git From Clare. 3.00 News; Logged On, 3.30 Tales from the Village, 3.45 This Sceptred Isle. 4.00 News; Open Rept. 4.30 The Memorah E. 00 PM E. E. 20 Open Book. 4.30 The Message, 5.00 PM, 5.57 Weather, 6.00 Six O'Clock News, 6.30 The Ghost of Number Ten. 7.00 News; The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. 7.45 Lady Susan. 6.00 News; Any Questions?. 8.45 Latter from America. 9.00 News; The Friday 8.45 Leger from America. 9.00 News; 1ne Finday Play: Life's A Sport. 10.00 The World Tonight. 10.45 Book at Bedisme: Nana. 11.00 News; Late Tackle. 11.30 Sporting Philanthropista. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Last Resort. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. The Last Book Last resort 12.46 Shipping Porecast 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping. 5.40 Inshore Porecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Dey. 5.47 Leisure Update. 5.56 - 6.00 Weather. Redio 4 LW

1198:Hai 9.45 - 16.00 An Act of Worship, 12.00 . 12.04 News; Shipping Forecast, 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast, 11.30 - 6.00 Today in Parliament. Radio 5 Live 1533 909Ht MW 6.00 Breeklest 9.00 Nicky

Campbell. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Drivs. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 Alen Green's Sportsnight. 10.00 Late Night Live. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Moming Reports. World Service Radio

World Service Heads (1984: LTV 1.00 World Today, 1.30 Meridian, 2.00 World Today, 2.30 People and Politics, 3.00 World Today, 3.20 Sport, 3.30 Business Report, 3.45 Insight, 4.00 World Today, 4.30 Weekend, 5.00 World Today, 5.30 - 6.00 My Century.

CHOICE Y

rustage 4 19: 4-34 (MHz PM) 6.00 News Briefing. 6.05 90mething Understood. 6.35 On Your Farm. 6.57 Weether, 7.00 News, 7.05 Sunday Papers. 7.10 Sunday, 7.55 Redio 4 Appeal. 6.00 News. 8.05 Sunday Papers. 8.07 Sunday Worship, 8.45 Letter from America. 6.00 News. 10 News. 10 News. 10 News. 10

Ratio 5 Live
133, 994-12 MW) 6.00 Brief Lives, 6.30 Breakfast with
133, 994-12 MW) 6.00 Brief Lives, 6.30 Breakfast with
Andray-Neil, 9.00 Sports-Week, 10.00 Hayes on
Sunding 12.00 Baby Dolls, 12.30 The Media Show,
1.00 Sunday Sport, 7.00 News Edita, 7.30 20thCertiny Vox, 8.30 Brief Lives, 9.00 Dailyn Worldwide,
8.30 Out This Week, 10.00 Lale Night Currie, 1.00 Up
All Night; 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports,
"Brief Services Radio
(1894-12 LW) 1.00 The World Today, 1.30 Meridian
(1894-12 LW) 1.00 The World Today, 2.30 Pick of the
World, 3.00 The World Today, 3.20 Sports Roundup,
3.30 Global Business, 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today,

CHOICE 2.6

Lady Susan (10.45am R4) is about a widow who unscrupulously sets about advancing both herself and her 16-year-old daughter, Harriet Walter (above), Maggie

the principal correspondents...

Randio 3
(9) 2-92-Miriz FM) 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masteryrorks.
10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00
Composer of the Week. Nikolal Rivesly-Korsalov.
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 The BBC
Orchestres. 4.00 Opera in Action. 4.45 Music
Machine. 5.00 in Tune. 7.30 Performance on 3.
Conductor Vassilly Streisky, Peldos Kuusisto (violin).
Schnittle: In memoriam. Prokoffer. Violin Concerto
No. 20 Performance No. 3 in Amore 9.20

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Radio 5 Livre
(633, 9054-tr //w/) 6.00 Breakfast, 9.00 Nicky
(Campbell, 12.00 The Midday News, 1.00 Ruscoe and
Co. 4.00 Drive, 7.00 News Esta, 7.30 Footbell
Legends, 8.00 Trevor Brocking's Monday Match
Debate, 10.00 Late Night Live, 1.00 Up All Night, 5.00
- 9.00 Morning Reports,
World Service Radio
(1964-tr Liv/) 1.00 The World Today, 1.30 Westway,
1.35 Record News, 2.00 The World Today, 2.30 The
Next Big Thing, 3.00 The World Today, 3.20 Sports
Roundup, 3.30 World Business Report, 3.45 Insight,
4.00 - 7.00 The World Today.

TUESDAY

CHOICE THE Afternoon Play today is Bawcock's Eve (2.1Spm R4), a retelling of the



CHOICE

perspective on modern drugs in

Murder, Magic and Medicine (11am R4). He explains how cures can be traced back to living organisms and patches up some of the perceived differences between Western

medicine and herbal remedies

Poulenc. 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night. Radio 4 1904-94 6MHz FM) 6.00 Today, 9.00 News; Midweek. 9.45 Serial: The Doctor, the Detective and Arthur Conan Doyle, 16.00 News; Woman's Hour. 11.00 News; Murder, Magic and Medicine, 11.30 Choice Grenfell, 12.00 News; You and Yours, 12.57 Weath

6.00 Farming Today. Radio 4 LW Radio 4 LW
198H:19.45 - 16.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04
News Headines; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57
Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.
Radio 5 Live
1833, 922H:1.18(4) 6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Nicky
Campbell. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe.
4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 John Inverdale's
Football Night. 10.00 Limejohn, 11.00 Lata Night Live.

FROM "the combined forces of BBC TV

and Radio Entertainment". it says here, a series of seven comedy pilots.

Quirke, above) exposes her staff's snobbery by turning up incognito.

(129 Hz U.) 1.00 The World Today, 1.30 Westway, 1.45 Performance, 2.00 The World Today, 2.30 Focus on Faith. 3.00 The World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup, 3.30 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today.

THURSDAY TELEVISION

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (71068), 7.00 News (T) (69375), 8.00 Kilroy (S) (T) (8676337). 9.45 The Vanessa Show (S)(T) (5049207). 10.55 News (T) (7908801). **11.00** Real Rooms (S) (7925578). **11.25** Can't Cook, Won't Cook (S)(T) (7995337). 11.55 News (T) (ffff733). **12.00** Cell My Bluff (S) (21066). **12.30** Battersea Dogs Home (S)(T) (89578). **1.00** News (T) (62462). **1.30** Regional News (86609337). **1.40** Neighbours (S)(T) (65389153). 2.05 Ironside (R) (7672627). 2.55 Going for a Song (S) (8567882). 3.20 The Weather Show (S)(T) (2998733).

3.25 Children's BSC: Playdays (4227022). 3.45 The Littlest Pet Shop (S) (9074085). 3.55 Pocket Dragon Adventures (S) (T) (9070269). 4.05 Rugrats (T) (6937356). 4.20 Horr.e Farm Twins (T) (6958849). **4.25** Short Change (S)(T) (1631269). **5.00** Newsround (S)(T) (5478998). **5.10** See How They Run (S)(T) (6501153).

5.35 Neighbours (S)(T) (282578).

6.00 News; Weather (T) (511).

6.30 Regional News (T) (191).

7.00 Watchdog (S)(T) (1288).

7.30 EastEnders (S)(T) (375).

8.00 Vets in Practice (S)(T) (7608).

8.30 Fat Free. More about people's battles

to get rid of extra pounds (S)(T) (9443). 9.00 News; Weather (T) (7207).

9.30 FILM Shine (1996). Geoffrey Rush is

outstanding as pianist David Helfgott, the Australian child prodigy, Noah Taylor plays the young Helfgott, Armin Mueller-Stahl plays his forbidding father (S)(T) (831443). 11.15 Question Time (S)(T) (765240), 12.15

Faces of Islam (S)(T) (6670196). 12.35 Han on Fire (1987). Scott Glerm is hired to babysit a young kidnap

2.05 News 24 (74382592), 5.40 Faces of Islam (R)(S)(T) (3753592). To 6am.

target (S) (4452711).

BBC2

6.35 The Passionate Statistician (1) (4246086). 7.00 Open a Door (R) (2297/35) 7.05 Teletubbles (29347/2). 7.30 Yog's Treasure Hunt (F) (3813004). 7.55 Blue Peter (S)(T) (2213066). 8.45 Taz-Menia (5643917). 8.49 Polica Dot laz-Mania (5643917), 8.49 Polita Dot Shorts (8146207), 8.50 Fiddley Foodle Bird (R)(S) (8135191), 9.00 Job Benk (S) (7062462), 9.40 Belief File (5488627), 9.30 Watch (S) (8251559), 9.45 Come Outside (S) (8249714), 10.00 Teletubbles (R)(S) (23085), 10.30 Storytime (S) (R)(S) (23085). 10.30 Storytime (S) (5815996). 10.45 The Experimenter (S) (3113733). 11.05 Space Ark (S) (9886443). 11.15 Zig Zag (S) (1485917). 11.35 Lifeschool (S) (5602627). 12.00 Job Bank (S)(T) (9383578). 12.10 English File (S)(T) (4974269). 12.30 Working Lunch (70820). 1.00 Fiddley Foodle Bird (R)(S) (73670882). 1.10 The Arts and Crafts Hour (S) (2495424). 2.10 Sporting Greats (S) (22116820). 2.40 News (T) (8959085). 2.45 Westminster (S)(T) (2574694). 3.25 News (2995646). 3.30 Hot Shots (R)(S)(T) (8436849). 3.30 Hot Shots (R)(S)(T) (8436849).

3.40 Song of Norway (1970).
Toralv Maurstad plays Edvard Grieg in this biopic (65740337).

6.00 Star Treic The Next Generation. Sci-fi drama series (R)(S)(T) (171240).

6.45 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. Sci-fi drama series (S)(T) (599917).

7.30 First Sight. Current affairs (917).

8.00 The Travel Show (S)(T) (8578). 8.30 Jeremy Clarkson's Extreme Machines (R)(S)(T) (7085).

9.00 Meet the Ancestors. An excavation team find a Roman coffin (5) (T) (5849).

9.30 [Hillife] Pat Files – a Horizon Trilogy. See Choice, below (S)(T) (968646).

10.20 Meetings with Remarkable Trees (S) (786563).

10.30 Newsnight. (1) (977714), 11.15 Late Review (S) (776207) 12.00 Despatch Box (S) (99757). 12.30 Learning Zone (46695134). To 635am.

THURSDAY CHOICE

PART OF THE BBC's "Fighting Fat,

Fighting Fit" season, Fat Files - A Horizon Trilogy (9.30pm BBC2, left) looks at the unhappiness experienced by people

who cannot lose weight. As "Fat Fighting"

shows, many of them are finding kindred snirits on the Internet, where they are no

longer judged on their size. "The computer has liberated me," says Kathryn. "Tve now got loads of friends, and it's who I am that

counts, not my fatness." The programme also explores the various methods people

use to try to reduce their weight.

ITV Granada

6.00 GMTV (6791462). 9.25 Trisha (S)(T) (3565733). 10.30 This Morning (T) 65251820). 12.20 Granada News (1) (6982559), 12.30 News (1) (74546). 1.00 Home and Away (8) (1) (82551337), 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (S) (1) (8495288), 2.10 Emmerdale (R)(S)(T) (3024356), 2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (S) (T) (637608). 3.15 News (T) (2993288) 3.20 Graneda News (1) (2983801)

3.25 Children's ITV: Mopatop's Shop (1) (2973424). **3.35** The Adventures of Dawdle (S) (8422846). **3.45** The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (1) (8402882). 4.00 Lavender Castle (1) (6923153). 4.15 Hey Arnoldi (8336675). 4.40 The Worst Witch (S) (T) (7016559). 5.10 Home and Away (S) (T) (9654630). 5.40 News; Weather (T) (143240).

5.55 Granada Tonight (1) (9257733).

7.00 Emmerdale Kathy delivers some surprising evidence (S)(T) (6356).

7.30 We Can Work It Out. Consumer affairs megazine (S) (443).

8.00 The Bill. In the world of Turkish gambling, an undercover officer goes missing. For Meadows, it is a race against time (1) (7795).

9.00 The Knock. The courier with a bodypack of nuclear material returns to the UK dangerously ill with radiation burns. Fearing he will talk, Taylor orders him killed (S)(T) (7559).

10.00 News: Weather (1) (40191).

10.30 Granada News (T) (283917).

10.40 Thursday Night Live. Live debate show (S) (9165004).

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12.10 Public Morals (5629592), 12.45 The Jerry Springer Show (7752863), 1.30 Pirate TV (7951973), 1.55 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (5638979), 2.15 ITV at the Belfort Festival (9902757). 3-10 Cybernet (34876889), 3-40 Potty about Pets (14203405), 4-05 Soundray (S) (28543405), 4-20 ITV Nightscreen (817015), 5-30 News (87912), To 6am.

Channel 4

7.00 The Big Breakfast (S) (52085). 9.00 Schools (381375). 11.30 Powerhouse (1882). 12.00 Sesame Street (47004). 12.30 The Ocean World of John Stoneman (72288). 1.00 Pet Rescue (R)(S)(T) (55172). 1.30 The Ocean World of John Stoneman (65316207).

1.55 FILE Way of a Gaucho (1952).

Rory Cathoun plods around the Pampas in this colourful caper (61538288).

3.30 Hampton Court Palace (T) (337). 4.00 Fifteen to One (S)(T) (172). 4.30 Countdown (S)(T) (1625608). 4.55 Ricki Lake (S)(T) (4736066).

5.30 Pet Rescue (S)(T) (608).

6.00 Dishes. Game show (T) (849). 6.30 Holfyoaks (S)(T) (801).

7.00 News; Weather (S)(T) (737240).

7.50 Gilbert and Sullivan: the Very

Models. Animation (399288)

8.00 Norland Namies. Behind-the-scenes peep at a school for namies (3646).

8.30 Secret Lives. A profile of Princess Margaret (R)(S)(T) (2153).

9.00 Dispatches. Current affairs (T) (8801).

10.00 Rising Damp (R)(T) (48733). 10.30 Whose Line is it Anyway?

improvisational game show (24153).

11.00 Ally McBeal (R)(S)(T) (680849). **11.55 Oz** (125559). **12.55** Victs (5910573). **1.25** Feather Tale (4883370).

1.35 IIII Stan and George's New Life (1990). Quirky Australian comedy, with Paul Chubb (727689). 3.35 FIM Holiday on the River

Yarra. Harrowing African drama (896467). 5.15 Right to Reply (R) (24573). 5.45 The Pink Panther (7822467). 5.50 Arimal

Alphabet (7812080), 5.55 Sesame Street (4758592), To 7am.

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Channel 5

6.00 5 News (5) (7804917). **7.00** WideWorld (R) (S) (T) (9992820). **7.30** Milkshake! (S) (8954563). **7.35** Wirnzie's House (R) (8954563), **7.35** Wirnzie's House (R) (9623733), **8.00** Havakazoo (R) (S) (1063424), **8.30** Dappledown Farm (R) (S) (1062795), **9.00** Animal House (R) (2676207), **9.25** Postcards (4698462), **9.30** Oprah (6422269), **10.20** Sunset Beach (S) (T) (202097), **11.10** Lezze (R) (S) (2900443), **12.00** S News at Next (S) (T) (1068811), **12.30** Family Noon (S)(T) (10665ti). 12.30 Family Affairs (S)(T) (9832240). 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (S)(T) (9991191). 1.30 The Roseanne Show (S) (9831511). **2.00** 100 Per Cent (S) (6252511). **2.30** Good Afternoon (S) (4451375).

3.30 FILM Greased Lightning (1977).

Motoring drama with Richard Pryor,
about the first black stock-car racer ever
to win a Grand National race (9535066).

5.20 Sunset Beach (S)(T) (6084795).

6.00 100 Per Cent (S) (5113820).

6.30 Family Affairs (S)(T) (5104172).

7.00 5 News (S) (6263627). 7.30 Champions of the Wild. A look at efforts to save the endangered sea

turtle (S)(T) (5100356).

8.00 The Pepsi Chart. Dr Fox presents the latest sounds (S) (6272375).

8.30 Family Confidential. A 14-year-old boy is about to start a new school term. But as well as studying, he has to deal with his 10-month-old son (6251882).

9.00 Hilli A Strange Affair (1995). Jurith Light leaves her cheating husband. He survives a stroke and then she meets Mr Right. True-fire electrams with William Russ (S)(T) (12210608).

10.50 Sex and Shopping. The porn series looks at lesbian scenes (S) (3301240).

11.20 The Jack Docherty Show (S) (8876085). 12.00 Live and Dangerous (8954347). To 6am.

(35:5563), **12.40** Live and Dangerous (S) (79:67486), **4.40** Prisoner: Cell Block H (R)(S) (3929592), **5.30** 100 Per Cent

3.00 Emmanen (306500-9, 0.30 Fastrax (-2800069, -0.30 Bechman (196666), 100 Sunnel of the Fidera (-20035-9, 130 FGA TO), 100 Sunnel of the Fidera ACEA(-59, 8.00 Spenth Found (400773), 10.00 Foobal Souphook (504629), 11.30 Clea,

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FRIDAY TELEVISION

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BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (74950), 7.00 News (T) (27979), 9.00 Kilroy (S)(T) (8643009). 9.45 The Vanessa Show (S)(T) (5016979), 10.55 News (T) (7975573). 11.00 Real Rooms (S) (7985950). 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (S)(T) (7962009), 11.55 News (T) (1188405). 12.00 Call My Bluff (S) 98318). 12.30 Battersea Dogs Home (S) (T) (23592). 1.00 News (T) (97738) 1.30 Regional News (86676009), 1.40 Neighbours (S) (T) (65356825), 2.05 Song (R)(S) (8534554), 3.20 The Weather Show (S)(T) (2965405).

3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (8522234). 3.45 Spider (R)(S) (9050405), 3.50 Smart on the Road (S)(T) (8476467). Newsround Extra (S)(T) (1093115), 5.10 Blue Peter (S)(T) (6578825). 5.35 Neighbours (S)(T) (827221).

6.00 News; Weather (T) (641).

6.30 Regional News R(1) (221).

7.30 Top of the Pops (S)(T) (405).

9.00 News; Weather (T) (6399).

9.30 Parkinson. Michael Parkinson chats to Lee Evans, the comic who looks set to become a Hollywood star (S)(T) (510689)

10.25 FILM Blind Side (1993). Rutger Hauer toys with a hit-and-run yuppie couple in this brutal tale (S)(T) (1698115).

TL55 The Stand-Up Show (S) (519793). 12.25 The Big End (R)(S)(T) (5870413).

12.55 The Lords of Discipline (1983). Dour drama about racism, with David Keith (T) (670622).

2.35 BBC News 24 (21344887). To 7em.

BBC2 6.35 Asthma and the Bean (1) (8541298). 7.00 Hairy Jeremy (R)(S) (6592347). 7.05 Teletubbies (S) (2901844). 7.30 Yog's Treasure Hunt (F) (3880776). 7.55 Short Change (S) (T) (2280736). 8.45 Taz-Mania (5610689). 8.40 Polika Dot Shorts (813979). 8.50 Johnson and Friends (8102863), **9.00** Storytime (S) (7039134). **9.10** See You, See Me (S) (6455399). **9.30** Numbertime (821831), **9.45** Come Outside (S) (8216486), **10.00** Teletubbles (R)(S) (81689), **10.30** Megamaths (S)(T) 3167554). 10.50 Look and Read (T) (3187318). 11.10 Landmarks (1433316). 11.30 English File (S)(T) (8134). 12.00 Scene (89660). 12.30 Working Lunch (21134). **1.00** Johnson and Friends (R)(S) (73647554). **1.10** Arts and Crafts Hour (S)

2462196), 2.10 Indoor Bowls (32913842). 6.00 The Simpsons (R)(S)(T) (855370).

6.20 The Simpsons (R)(S)(T) (866486).

6.45 Robot Wars (S)(T) (804009). 7:15 Electric Circus (S)(T) (786196).

7.30 Country House (S)(T) (937).

8.00 Gardening from Scratch 2. More green-fingered tips (R)(S)(T) (6318). 8.30 PHODE Garden Stories. What

happens when a person's passion for the garden becomes an obsession? See Choice, below (S)(T) (5825). 9.00 Girame Girame Girame. Tom gets a big break when he lands an audition to play a hooligan on TV (S)(T) (7641).

Bang, Bang, It's Reeves and Mortimer (S)(I) (93270).

10.00 The Young Ones. (F)(T) (97689). 10.30 Newsnight (T) (536047). 11.55 Young Guns Go for it (S)(T) (177457).

11.45 The Talent (S) (642467). 12.35 Glern Close in a moving drama about the effects of Aids (S) (8048245).

1.35 The Seven Ages of Music (S) (1013722) 3.00 Learning Zone: GCSE Bitesize (76852). To 5am.

ITV Granada

6.00 GMTV (6768134), 9.25 Trista (S)(T) (3532405), 10.30 This Morning (T) (65226592). 12.20 Granada News (T) (8942931). **12.30** News (T) (18660). **1.00** Home and Away (S)(T) (82528009). **1.25** Jerry Springer Show (S)(T) (6455680). 2.10 Emmerdale (R)(S)(T) (3091028). 2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (S) (T) (212979), 3.15 News (T) (2853860), 3.20 Granada News (T) (2950573).

3.25 Children's ITV: Mopatop's Shop (T) (2940196). 3.35 Timbuctoo (9056889) 3.40 Animal Stories (S) (9037554) 3.50 Adam's Family Tree (S)(T) (8412221) 4.20 Gladiators: Train 2 Win (R)(T) (9529080). 4.50 Top Ten of Everything (9/39844). 5.10 Home and Away (S) (T) (3959842). 5.40 News; Weather (T) (702573).

5.55 Granada Tonight (1) (9224405).

7.00 Bruce's Price Is Right (S)(T) (4196). 7.30 Coronation Street. Natalle drops a bombshell on Jack and Vera (S)(T) (573).

8.00 Airline. Real-life documentary series following the passengers and staff of the easyJet airline (3844).

Neighbours from Heil. Tales of rows across garden fences (T) (2979).

Catherine Cookson's Tity Trotter Tily gets the cold shoulder from villagers and the McGraths ransack her home, looking for money they believe is hidden there. Then Tilly finds her grandmother dead and the cottage burnt to the ground

10.00 News; Weather (1) (84115), 10.30

(S)(T) (9979).

12.35 The Tower (1992), Paul Reiser is trapped in a malevolent high-tech skyscraper (960142).

Granada News (T) (811370). 10,40 Friday Night's All Wright (S) (908115). 11.30 Phil Collins: Live in Parls (S) (239592).

2.15 Box Office America (9939245), 2.40

SeaQuest DSV (R) (S) (6805245), 3.30
The Haurited Pstitank (R) (92041), 4.00
Trisha (R)(S)(T) (2575149), 4.55 (TV
Nightscreen (1660581), 5.30 Morning
News (45516), To 6am.

Channel 4

7.00 The Big Breakfast (S) (10689), 9.00 Channel 4 Schools (T) (900080), 11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (R)(S)(T) (3202). 12.00 Sesame Street (61028), 12.30 Bewitched (R) (16202), 1.00 Pet Rescue (R)(S)(T) (13776), 1.30 Roots to Success

1.55 FILM The Virgin Queen (1955).
The relationship between Bette Daviss Eizabeth I and Sir Walter Paleigh, according to 20th Century Fox's plush

3.30 Hampton Court Palace (T) (457). 4.00 Fifteen to One (R) (S) (T) (202). 4.30 Countdown (S) (T) (1685080). 4.55 Ricki Lake (S)(T) (4703738).

5.30 Pet Rescue (S)(T) (738).

6.00 TFI Friday (S) (24221).

7.00 News; Weather (S)(T) (305221). 7.50 Gilbert and Sulfivan (94)221)

8.00 The Lost Gardens of Heligan. Gardening series (R)(T) (1486).

8.30 Brookside. Namh is terrified when Jason threatens to get Luke (S)(T) (3221).

8.00 Friends. Sitcom (R)(S)(T) (9009). 9.30 Streetmate. Davina McCall plays cupid in Glasgow and Leeds (T) (93298).

10.00 Frasier. Frasier's high-echool reunion is approaching (S)(T) (82757). 10.30 Eurotrash. (S)(T) (884196). 11.05 King of the Hil (T) (288026). 11.35 TFI Friday (S) (236406). 12.40 The Divine David Presents (3168326). 115 Bad Ass Babes

1.45 Teenage Gang Debs (1966).
Diana Conti takes over an all-girl gang in
Brooklyn (590245).

3.15 Eyewitness (1956). B-pic suspense with Muriel Pavlow (4821626).

4.40 Dweebs (48944061), 5.05 Pearl (1820968), **5.35** 2 Stupid Dogs (7174246). To Sam.

- 6.00 Certs Song (950) (840/340)
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SATELLITE & CABLE

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Channel 5 6.00 5 News (7871689). 7.00 WideWorld (R)(S) (9969692), **7.30** Milkshake! (S) (2259775), **7.35** Wimzie's House (R) (9690405), **8.00** Havakazoo (1030196). 8.30 Dappledown Farm (R)(S) (1039467). 9.00 Mixing It (2643979). 9.25 Postcards (4665134) 9.30 Oprah (6482641), 10.20 Sunset Beach (S) (2097689), 11.10 Lecza (S) (2977115), 12.00 5 News at Noon sepredicar As. Caramendo ampapita 12,200 Nove Review BERREPS, 12,228 Border Noves; ps5005Q 3,200 Border Noves (250572), 8,000 Lockstround (734, 5,300 High Robat (605), 10,300 Border Noves (805) Perstatural (S)(T) (1033283). 12.30 Family Affairs (R)(S)(T) (9809912). 1.00 The Bold and the Beautifu (S)(T) (9968863), **1,30** The Roseanne Show (R) (9608283), **2,00** 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (6229283), **2,30** Good

Afternoon (4428047). 3.30 Dalva (1996). Farrah Fawcett juggles two affairs as she searches for the

son she gave up for adoption (9502738).

5.20 Sunset Beach (S) (6051467). 6.00 100 Per Cent (S) (5180592).

6.30 Family Affairs (S)(T) (5171844).

7.00 5 News (S)(T) (6230399). 7.30 Champions of the Wild (T) (5177028).

8.00 Was It Good for You? Reviews of the Dominican Republic (S) (6249047).

8.30 Holiday Park. Docu-scap following life at Forhunter caravan park (S) (T) (6228554). 9.00 Shadow of Obsession (1994). Veronica Harnel plays a teacher stalked by a student (S)(T) (52104080).

10.40 The People vs Jerry Sadowitz. Unusual talk show (3388399).

#11:10 Eva (1977). Limp erotic thriller, with Caroline Berg (9498202).

1.00 Film And the Band Played On (1993). Earnest attempt to tell the Alds story (S) (7022177). 3.30 Stormy (1935). Equine drama

with Noah Beery Jr (87260239). 4.35 The Road (10256055), 4.40 Prisons Cell Block H (3996264), **5.30** 100 Par Cent (R)(S) (2259559). To 6am.

579009. 6.00 Chalet South Africa v Wast Indios 194844, 7.30 Chalet Australia v England 53015), 16.00 Virveling (52106486), 12.00 Close

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Ironside (R) (7649399). 2.55 Going for a

4.05 Rugrats (R)(S)(T) (9539467), 4.30 L and K Friday (S)(T) (1692370), 4.55

7.00 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook. Culinary challenge (S)(T) (9028).

8.00 Vets in Practice (S)(T) (8776). 8.30 A Question of Sport (S)(T) (7283).

OBSESSIVES ARE, of course, the meat and drink of documentary makers. When what they are obsessive about is gardening then bells must start ringing in the minds of programme commissioners. And here they are in Garden Stories: Obsessions (8.30pm BBC2, left). Meet 77-year-old Gordon Rowley, who has dedicated his life to cacti. And the inevitable couple who look upon their propagated plants as "children". Reg, Sid and Harry, meanwhile, devote their twilight days to maintaining a flat bowling green.

FRIDAY CHOICE

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TUESDAY TELEVISION

BBC1

EEKEND REVIEW, Sendent 9 January 1999

ITV/Region *

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RTE 2.0 52 6.00 7.50 1.35 10.35 12.00 12.00

5.00 Business Breakfast (20378), 7.00 News (47947), 9.00 Kárby (S) (5705893) 9.45 The Vanessa Stow (S) (5178762) 10.55 News (7044657) 11.00 Real Rooms (S) (7054034). 11.25 Can't Cook Won't Cook (S) (7024893), 11.55 News (1257589), 12.00 Call My Bluff (18386), 12.30 Battersea Dogs' Home (43560), 1.00 News (40034), 1.30 Regional News (86738893), 1.40 Neighbours (65425909), 2.05 konside (7701)83). 2.55 Going for a Song (8603636) 3.20

3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (R)(S) (7178198). 3.45 The Enchanted Lands (R)(S) (9103541). 3.55 Hububb (S)(T) (8537522). 440 Chemunks Go to the Movies (R)(S)(T) (2637283). 4.35 The Really Wild Show (S)(T) (1760725), 5.00 Newsround (S)(T) (5507454), 5.10 See How They Run (S)(T) (6647909).

5.35 Neighbours. Lance convinces Bit to place a bet (S)(T) (144102).

6.00 News; Weather (1) (251).

6.30 Regional News (T) (831).

7.00 Holiday. Jil Dando toes the busy resort of Sousse in Tunsia (S!(T) (4929).

7.30 Eastenders. Emotions in the Square run high and threaten to disrupt Tillany's funeral (S)(T) (943473).

8.10 CHOICE Holby City. New medical

drama series. See Choice, below (S)(T) (457386).

9.00 News; Regional News (1) (8337).

9.30 Paddington Green. Trade's still slow for wig-man Harry (S)(T) (30096).

10.00 Patriot Games (1992) Hamson Ford stars as the CIAs Jack Ryan, making enemies of the IRA when he spoils a terrorist attack in London (T) (399541).

11.55 **EILM** Silent Motive (1992). Patricia Wettig stars as a stalked author in this smart tele-thriller (S)(T) (55-980).

1.25 BBC News 24 (31243771), To 6am.

BBC2

6.35 Wood, Brass and Baboon Bones (1692562): 7.00 The Little Polar Bear (R) 19643611). 7.05 Teletubbies (2070928). 7.30 Yogis Treasure Hunt (A) (2363015). 7.50 Blue Peter (5) (2367831) 8.45 Taz-Mania (5772473) 8.40 Polika Dot Shorts (8275763) 8.50 Cakie Doke (8271947). 9.00 German Globo (S) (7325980). 9.05 Hallo aus Berlin (S) (7324251). 9.10 Working It Out (S) (7188454). 9.25 Techno (S) (6530034). 9,45 Numberlime (8378270), 10.00 Teletubbies (S) (90137). 10.30 Watchy (S) (5944454), 10.45 Science Zone (S) (3259589), 11.05 Space Ark (9722299), 11.15 Megamaths (S) (1594473). 11.35 Words and Pictures (S) (2367676). 11.50 History File (S)(T) (2344725), **12.30** English Express (S) (4003725), **12.30** Working Lunch (41102). 1.00 Oakie Doke (R)(S) (73716638). 110 The Arts and Crafts Hour (S) (2524980). 2.10 Sporting Greats (22252676), 2.40 News (8088541), 2.45 Westminster (S) (9920170) 3.25 News (2021102), 3.30 Birds with Tony Soper (R)(S) (8147657).

3.50 The the Clouds Roll By (1946). Robert Walker stars as songwriter Jerome Kern (28829473).

6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (257638). 6.25 Heartbreak High (S)(T) (664893).

7:10 The O Zone (S)(T) (468102).

7.30 From the Edge (S)(T) (657).

8.00 University Challenge (S)(T) (1216).

8.30 Rick Stein's Seafood Odyssey. Stem searches for the "best fish in the world" - turbot (S)(T) (8025).

9.00 Morecambe and Wise (T) (350183)

9.25 Great Rallway Journeys. Michael Portillo explores his complicated roots in a trek across the railway networks of Spain (S)(T) (977386).

10.20 The Whitbread Announcement (S)(T) (993367). 10.30 Newsnight (T) (853928). **1115** Trial by Jury (638831) 12.00 Despatch Scx (S) (77329), 12.30

ITV Granada

6.00 GMTV (6837218) 9.25 Trisha (S)(T) (3601589) 10.30 This Morning (T) (65397676) 12.20 Granada News and Weather (T) (6011015), 12.30 News; Weather (T) (45928); 100 Home and Away (S)(T) (82580893), 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (S)(T) (8524744). 2.10 Coronation Street (R)(T) (3153812). 2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (S)(T) (506522). 3.15 News (T) (2022744). 3.20 Granada News (T) (2029657).

3.25 Children's ITV: Mopatop's Shop (T) (2002980). 3.35 Rosie and Jim (S) (8542454). 3.50 The Wombles (S) (9195522). 4.00 Cow and Chicken (T) (9627676). 4.25 Mike and Angelo (S)(T) (9382116). 4.50 How II (S)(T) (9208928). **5.10** Home and Away (S)(T) (2505706). **5.40** News (T) (728134).

5.55 Granada Tonight (T) (9393589).

7.00 Emmerdate. Kim and Steve sit side by side in the dock (S)(T) (9096).

7.30 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Quiz show (S)(T) (75034).

8.30 Airline. Real-life documentary series following the passengers and staff at easyJet (T) (7251).

9.00 Peak Practice. Newcomer Dr Graham draws breath after the tragic accident at the car rally - and is then landed with a £6,000 bill for calling out the helicopter (S)(T) (6251).

10.00 News; Weather (T) (32693)

10.30 Granada News (T) (145541)

10.40 Someone to Watch over Me A look at the rare personality disorder Munchausen syndrome by proxy, which can cause parents to injure and even kill their own children (T) (978676).

11.40 The Shea Neary Story (327469). 12.40 Renegade (S) (8979139). 1.50 The Haunted Fishtank (3637874). 2.25 Highlander (6704058), 3.45 Wish You Were Here .. ? (S)(T) (61392508). 3.40 Football League Extra (8285961) 4.35 ITV Nightscreen (3913503), 5.30 News (92684). To 6am.

Channel 4

7.00 The Big Breakfast (S) (30657). 9.00 Schools (250299). 11.30 Powerhouse (4522). 12.00 Sesame Street (8216). 12.30 Bewitched (R) (25270). 1.00 Per Rescue (R) (S) (T) (33744). 1.30 Roots to Success (66745(83).

1.45 FILM Until They Sell (1957). Slick courtroom drama with Joan Fontaine and Paul Newman (77560386).

3.30 The Hampton Court Palace (305), 4.00 Fifteen to One (R)(S) (812), 4.30 Countdown (S) (116), 5.00 Ricki Lake (S) (5742), 5.30 Pet Rescue (S) (676).

6.00 King of the Hill (R)(\$)(T) (589).

6.30 Home Improvement (T) (541).

7.00 News: Weather (S)(T) (352831)

7.55 Gilbert and Sullivan: the Very Models. Animation (243015).

8.00 Brookside. Ladsey discovers Peter's true whereabouts (S) (T) (6386).

8.30 Classic Aircraft. Stories of old aircraft surviving in new roles and of the pilots who keep them flying (1) (5893).

9.00 Rats. Award-worring film that reveals a unique perspective of life in New York by exploring the relationship between the two most successful mammals found in the city - man and rat (S)(T) (4893).

10.00 Father Ted. (R)(S)(T) (32675)8 10.30 Bob and Margaret (11473).

11.00 Short Stories 8102)

11.30 Done Sheet (92909), 12.00 War Story (9747706), 12.05 Mortis Je House of Fastion (6848690), 12.20 His Mother's Voice (6763955), 12.35 A is != Autism (1929400), 12.50 Going Equipped (4339495), 12.55 Some Protection (1927077). 1.05 Pro and Con (9828619). 1.15 Glassy Ocean (1664435).

1.40 Hysses (1967), Adaptation of James Joyce's epic novel of Dublin life starring Barbara Jefford (75198348). 5.55 Sesame Street (4894348). To 7am.

Channel 5

6.00 5 News (7363473), 7.00 WideWorld (9036676), 7.30 Milkshake! (1805639). 7.35 Wimzies House (9769589). 8.00 Havakazoo (1192980). 8.30 Dappledown Farm (1191251), 9.00 Weather Front (1115831), 9.30 Oprah (6551725), 10.20 Surset Beach (2159473), 1130 Leeza (2046299). 12.00 5 News (9978096). 1.00 Bold and the Beautiful (9037947). 1.30 The Roseanne Show (9977367) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (6398367). 2.30 Good Afternoon (4580831).

3.30 The Lies Boys Tell (1994). Aing, aged Kirk Douglas takes his estranged son on a journey home in this teledrama (T) (9664522).

5.20 Sunset Beach (S)(T) (6113251).

6.00 100 Per Cent (S) (5259676).

8.30 Family Affairs (S)(T) (5240928).

7,00 5 News (S)(T) (6392163).

7.30 Champions of the Wild. A look at the work of the Santa Rosa National Park in Costa Rica (S)(T) (5239812).

6.00 Perfect Bables. Mark Easton starts a new three-part series on how parents are being offered the chance to design the genetic make-up of their children and the implications this has for the future of mankind (S)(T) (5560980).

9.00 Bat 21 (1988). US airforce plot Gene Hackman lands deep behind enemy lines after ejecting from his plane ove: Vietnam. His only guide (via radio contact) is spotter pilot Danny Glover. A tense drama which avoids false heroics. /S1(T) (5570367).

11.00 Two. Theller Gus is now penniless and suspected of killing his wife. Michael Eastor, stars (S) (2103163).

11.55 The Jack Docherty Show (S) (1702631). 12.35 Live and Dangerous (S; (5060077). 1.15 Live and Dangerous (continued) (S) (49315936). 3.45 Asian Football Show (S) (7506961). 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (3065348). 5.30 100 Per Ceni (R)(S) (2180233). To 6am.

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medical drama set in the Darwin Ward at Holby City Hospital and stars four former soap actors: Michael French (David from EastEnders), Lisa Faulkoer (Louise from Brookside), Angela Griffin (Fiona from Coronation Street) and Nicola Stephenson (Margaret from Brookside), "Some of the best performances on screen have come out of soaps in the last few years," says the Head of Drama Series, Mal Young. A Cosualty spin-off full of former soap stars? In the ratings war, the BBC is taking no chances.

TUESDAY CHOICE

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for a Song (S) (8590110). 3.20 The Weather Show (S) (2094961). 3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (7191510). 3.45 Little Monsters (S) (9199961). 3.50 ChuckleVision (S)(T) (9023023). 4.10 See It Saw It (S)(T) (6932495). 4.35 The Wild House (1664597). 5.00 Newsround (T)

(5401226). 5:10 Blue Peter (1) (6534481).

6.30 Regional News (1) (961).

7.30 Dream House (S)(T) (145).

8.00 Changing Rooms (S)(T) (8706).

8.30 Battersea Dogs' Home (1) (972139).

9.00 News; Weather (I) (5077).

9.30 The X-Files. Mulder and Scully

10.15 Don't Call Us. The history of the talent show (S)(T) (809023).

10.50 Confessions of the Cheshire

11.40 III in the Deep Woods (1992). Thinly plotted suspense mystery with Rosanna Arquette (S)(T) (785955).

BBC2

6.35 A Source of Inspiration (T) (4284954), 7.00 Tooth Fairles (FI)(S) (8992823), 7.05 Telepholes (2957400). Why? (S) (7082226). 9.25 The Art (S) (8272042). 10.00 Teletubbles (S) (18955). 10.30 Numbertime (S) (5848225). 10.45 Cats' Eyes (S) (5836481). 11.00 Around Scotland (S) (1566690). 11.20 The Geography Programme (S) (T) (640771). 11.40 Science in Action (S) (T) (2242313). 12.00 Spanish Magazine (S) (4083961). 12.35 Halfo aus Berlin (S) (9395313). 12.30 Working Lunch (92416). 1.00 Brum (R) (7360310). 110 The Arts and Crafts Hour (S) (2428752). 230 Sporting Greats (S) (22229348). 2.40 News (T) Greats (S) (22229348), 2.40 News (T) (6962313), 2.45 Westminster (S) (T) (6873110), 3.55 News (T) (9680145).

4.00 Fill That's Entertainment, part 2 (976), Another slab of MGM cinema history (1) (9435).

6.00 Star Trek - The Next Generation. Sci-fi drama series (R)(S)(T) (536597).

6.45 Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Buffy's biology teacher is killed by a giant praying mantis (S)(T) (930684).

8.00 Battle of the Sexes (S)(T) (6348).

8.30 Home Front. Tips for storing videos, books and clothes (S) (T) (2955).

(S)(T) (43H1O).

10.30 Newsnight (I) (325771). 1145 Trial by Juny (S) (1) (1993), 12,00 Despatch Box (S) (48443), 12,30 Learning Zone (46828462), To 635am.

WEDNESDAY CHOICE

ITV Granada

6.00 GMTV (6897690), 9.25 Trisha (S)(T) (3661961), 10.30 Tris Morning (T) (65364348), 12.20 Granada News (T) (6089787), 12.30 News (T) (16042), 1.00 Home and Away (S)(T) (82584665), 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (S)(T) (859466), 2.30 Emmerdale (R)(S)(T) (3057684), 2.45 Dish Supported Support (S)(T) 2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (S)(1) (173455). 3.15 News (T) (2099-116). 3.20 Granada News (T) (2096329).

3.25 Children's ITV: Mopatop's Shop (T) (2906752), 3,35 Teddybears (8528874), 3,45 Jumani (T) (8484684), 4,40 Whitziwig (S) (T) (9500955), 4,40 Mad for It (S) (7112787), 5,40 Home and Away (S) (T) (6800918), 5,40 News (T) (688787).

7.00 Emmerdale. Sleve and Kim go into the witness box (S)(T) (1226).

exposed (T) (313).

Quiz show (S)(T) (3874).

9.00 Garages from Hell. Horror stories of car commen - the dodgy secondhand car salesmen and mechanics who takes unsuspecting drivers for a ride (1) (2619).

10.00 News; Weather (T) (62787).

10.30 Granada News (T) (454665).

12.55 Fatal Deception: Mrs Lee Harvey Oswald (1993). Helena Bonham Carter stars as Oswald's wife,

(43998). To 6am.

Channel 4

7.00 The Big Breakfast (S) (4139), 9.00 Schools (71394), 11.30 Powerhouse (6752), 12.00 Sesame Street (89400), 12.30 Roots to Success (14684), 1.00 Pet Rescue (R)(S)(T) (44226). **1.30** Roots to Success (86649955).

1.45 Months Wee Willie Winkle (1937).
Months Shirley Temple mets the hearts of hardened soldiers at a colonial outpost in India (77537058).

3.30 Hampton Court Palace (T) (435). 4.00 Fifteen to One (S)(T) (482). 4.30 Countdown (S)(T) (226). 5.00 Ricki Lake (S) (T) (5232).

5.30 Pet Rescue (S)(T) (706).

6.00 Late Lunch with Mel and Sue. Celebrity chat (95503).

7.00 News; Weather (S)(T) (824684). 7.55 Gilbert and Sullivan: the Very Models. Animation (722938).

8.00 Brookside. Jackie tries to ease the pain of betrayal for Lindsey (S)(T) (1415). 8.30 The Real Holiday Show. Davina McCal takes a last look at video dianes

made by "real" holidaymakers (T) (7023). 9.00 ER. Ross is told that his contract will not be renewed by the County General

Hospital (R) (3961). 10.00 ER. More medical drama with the staff of

County General (R) (3348). tLOO The Mark Thomas Comedy Product. Thomas searches for fresh targets in this mix of comedy and current

affairs (3232)

11.30 The Connedy Lab (74135). 12.00 Board Stupid (R) (33511). 12.30 Footbal Italia (534530). 3.00 Transworld Sport (R)

4.00 Submarine Patrol (1936).

Preston Foster sorts the men from the boys in this US Navy action film (176066). 5.55 Sesame Street (4781820). To 7am.

Channel 5

6.00 5 News (7900145). 7.00 WideWorld (R)(S)(T) (9005348). 7.30 Mikshake! (S) (4659351). **7.35** Wimzie's House (R) (9729961). **8.00** Havakazoo (R)(S) (1096752). 8.30 Dappledown Farm (R)(S) (1095023). 9.00 Hot Property (R)(T) (2773435). 9.25 Russell Grant's Pos (4794690): 8.39 Oprah (6455597): 10.20 Sunset Beach (S) (T) (2126145): 1130 Leeza (R) (S) (2933771): 12.00 5 Nows (S) (T) (1006139): 12.30 Family Affairs (R)(S)(T) (9572656) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (S)(T) (9004619) 1.30 The Roseanne Show (S) (957139) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (628239) 2.30 Good Afternoon (S) (4557503).

3.30 Trade (1961) Robert Blake stars as TV detective Joe Dancer, accused of murder when investigating a Hollywood scandal.

With Kenneth McMillan (9568394).

5.20 Sunset Beach (S)(T) (601/023).

6.00 100 Per Cent (S) (5226348).

6.30 Family Affairs (S)(T) (5137400). 7.00 5 News (S)(T) (6296955).

7.30 Champions of the Wild. Wildlife documentary on the pight of chimpanzees in the Ruwenzori mountains of western Uganda (S) (T) (5133684). 8.00 Wing and a Prayer. The lawyers of Satthouse Chambers return for a new run

of the drame set in countrooms of the north of England (S)(T) (5464752). 9.00 Hostile Force (1996). Two masked gunmen seize a security firm control centre. Luckily for the surviving hostages, two of their number are ex-cops Andrew McCarthy stars as the ruthless gang leader in this briskly staged "perfect crime" thriller (S)(T) (12243936).

10.50 Not Melinda's Big Night In.

Presented by Gail Porter (S) (3451706). 11.30 Strange Luck (S) (9701416), 12.25 N-L Buffalo Sabres vs Phoenix Coyotes (S) (46630733). **4.40** Club Class (72542608). **5.05** Move On Up (S) (85529849). **5.30** 100 Per Cent (FI)(S) (4659135). To 6am.

Filtre Fortif 4.00 The hardware ridge; (728505; 8.00 Tarelee Normers 1956) (728505; 8.00 Tarelee Normers 1956) (728505; 80.00 Tarelee Normers 1956) (728505; 72.00 Tarelee Tales of 2 Normers 19565; 72.00 Tarelee Time (7576; 76459) (729) Scarring the Normer (7546; 76459) (729) Scarring the Normer (7546; 7656) (728505; 73.00 The Machines of King George (754) 53560065;

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6.00 Business Breakfast (45232). 7.00 News (21329), 9.00 Kilroy (8609665). 9.45 The Venessa Show (S) (5145435). 9.45 The Venessa Show (S) (5145435).
10.55 News (7017329). 11.00 Real
Rooms (S) (7021706). 11.25 Can't Cook,
Won't Cook (S) (7928665). 11.55 News
(127961). 12.00 Call My Buff (69690).
12.30 Battersea Dogs' Home (94874).
1.00 News (24416). 1.30 Regional News
(86632665). 1.40 Neighbours (65312481).
2.05 kronside (R) (7605955). 2.55 Going
for a Sono (S) #8500101. 3.20 The

5.35 Neighbours (S)(T) (703435). 6.00 News; Weather (T) (481).

7.00 Wildlife on One (F)(S) (T) (9058).

The National Lottery: Amazing Luck Stories (S)(T) (947058).

recount their versions of events leading up to the death of a teenager (S)(T)

Wives. Profiles of five women who are part of the wealthy Cheshire set (708955).

POLICE

1.15 News 24 (59886714). To 6am.

7.30 Yog's Treasure Hurt (R) (3919232). 7.55 The Really Wild Show (S) (T) (2346394), 8.15 Taz-Maria (5749145), 8.40 Poka Dot Shorts (8242435), 8.50 Brum (R) (8248619), 9.00 Environment (7168690), 9.10 What? Where? When? (6507706), 9.45 Words and Pictures (S) (8272042), 10.00 Teletubbles (S) (18955).

7.30 Tales from the Riverbank. The natural history of angling (R)(S)(T) (787).

9.00 G:[0] Mersey Blues. New documentary series. See Choice, below

9.50 Blood on the Campet. Behind-the-scenes tales of big bettles in the business world (S)(T) (285394).

IF YOU were a drug dealer, you'd take great comfert from the first episode of Mersey Bines (9pm RBC2, left), an "observational documentary" on the Merseyside police. The members of the city's drugs squad are committed and professional, but they are also strapped for eash. With the murder squad taking up all the overtime funds on two killings, the drugs team is working overtime for nothing. Jenny Crowther's new series, four years in the making, may seem like just another cop docu-soap, but it promises to be more interesting than that The state of the s

5.55 Granada Tonight (1) (9353961).

7.30 Coronation Street. Les becomes a pariah when his misdemeanours are 8.00 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?

8.30 Police, Camera, Actioni. Alastair Stewart puts a new security device to the test (R)(S) (9481).

10.40 The Big Match: FA Cup Replay. Footbell highlights (21395329).

Marina, in this true story (168658). 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (2188240).
2.40 Master Class (7849608): 3.05
Trisha (R)(S)(T) (9846004): 4.05
Soundtrax (S) (60442511): 4.15 ITV
Nightscreen (8947882): 5.30 News

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AN CITAMANIA MINISTRY 12.20 CALENDER News and Valathy (DOBERT) 1.20 Hastinas (200529, S.55 Calender (15810), B.30 Tonight (259, 10.30 Calender News (15665), 4.15 Jubilinias (96/7852) Tyris Tenes An Verticalitie essessibli 12.20 North East News 8597433, 12.25 Jubink (95950), 3.20 Hastinas COBS20, S.55 Western (15850), 8.00 North East Tonight (9795), 10.30 North East News (454665)

SUNDAY TELEVISION

BBC1

6.55 The Munsters (T) (7892300). 7.20 Match of the Day (S)(T) (3415132). 8.30 Breakfast with Frost (S)(T) (16132). 9.30 The Heaven and Earth Show (S) (98039).

10.30 Pornidge (R)(T) (98316). 11.00

Match of Their Day (S)(T) (7403). 11.30

CountryFile (S)(T) (8132). 12.00 News

(T) (6151687). 12.05 Hot Shots (R)(S)(T) (9559519), **12.15** Due South (S)(T) (5345497), **1.00** EastEnders (R)(S)(T) (9557300), 2.25 Cartoon (35362229)

2.35 The Parent Trap (1961).
Hayley Mils as twin sisters who meet for the first time at camp (T) (65609519).

4.40 MasterChef (S) (T) (7289403). **5.10** News; Weather (T) (2450229). **5.30** Regional News and Weather (538671).

5.35 Songs of Praise (S)(I) (583687).

6.10 Last of the Summer Wine. Longrunning sitcom (R)(S)(T) (987403).

6.40 Antiques Roadshow. The antiques am visit Gateshead (S) (T) (250652).

7.25 Stargate (1994), Kurt Russell "boldly goes" through e time portal in this comic-strip sci-fi (S)(1) (62677687).

9:15 News; Weather (T) (769720).

9.30 The Lakes. The villagers attend the funeral of the three children tragically drowned in the lake (S)(T) (517107).

10.10 Unfinished Business. Cornedy starring Harriet Walter (S) (T) (377403).

10.40 Pm Alam Partridge. Comedy series charting the fortunes of the oily former chat-show host (R)(S) (T) (985768).

11.10 Ruby Wax Meets... (R)(S)(T) (300294). **11.40** The Big End (S)(T)

12.10 Final Verdict (1991). Treat Williams as Twenties lawyer Earl Rogers in a low-key tele-biopic (S)(T) (1104527).

1.40 The Sky at Night (S)(T) (6802689) 2.05 Joins BBC News 24 (74475256).

BBC2

7.30 King Greenfingers (R) (S) (4509045). 7.35 Dily the Dinosaur (R) (3409045). 7.45 Teletubles (S) (4684294). 8.30 Little Mouse on the Prairie (R) (T) (7493768). 8.55 Alvin and the Chipmunks (R) (7578403). 9.20 Charlie Brown and Snoopy Show (R) (6565565). 9.45 The Wild House (S) (T) (5056519). 10.10 Wayne Manifesto (S) (6352923). 10.35 Grange HII (R)(S)(T) (5046045). 11.00 Kids and Cops (S) (7181132). 11.25 Grange Hill (R)(S)(T) (1547565). 11.50 The O Zone (R)(S)(T) (7609774). **12.05** The Simpsons (R)(S)(T) (4513652). 12.30 Robot Wars (R)(S)(T) (32294). 1.00 Top Gear - the TVR Story (S) (T) (19959). **1.30** Sunday Grandstand (S) (79183126). **1.35** Ski Sunday (9001671). **2.20** Basketball (57688381).

5.00 The Boat Show (S) (3229). 6.00 World Darts. Coverage of the final of the 1999 Embassy world championship. With Ray Stubbs (S) (45416229).

8.10 inside the Lords. The series continues by meeting e collection of cross-benchers - members with no party allegiance (S)(T) (523671).

8.50 Monet's Gardens (S)(T) (199671).

9.00 History of Alternative Comedy. Angus Deayton tells how the new wave of British comedy began (S)(T) (2381).

9.30 Gimme Gimme Linda and Tom awake to find a half-naked man in their flat (S)(T) (25958).

10.00 Clockwatch (S)(T) (263861).

10.10 CHOIGH Shooting the Past. Three-part drama by Stephen Poliakoff. See Choice, below (S)(T) (7937869).

11.25 Timescapa (1992). Smalltown widower Jeff Daniels has peculiar visitors at his modest guest house. A small-scale fantasy, but it's well-acted

2.00 Learning Zone. (71333817). To 6.35am.

ITV Granada

6.00 GMTV (66671). 9.00 Diggit (1135377).
9.25 Art Attack (R) (S) (1) (6575942).
9.55 Worst Witch (R) (S) (1) (5950381).
10.25 Superman (1324403). 10.55
Carloon (7095381). 11.00 My Favourite
Hymns (S) (1) (9671). 11.30 Sunday
Morning (S) (1) (22774). 12.30 The
Sunday Supplement (29720). 1.00
News: Weather (1) (73769720). 1.10
Jonathan Dimbleby (S) (1) (5559652).
2.00 Granada News (1) (35274010). 2.00 Granada News (T) (35274010). 2.05 Murder, She Wrota (2002300).

3.00 III Meet Me in St Louis (1944). A great musical, affectionately recreating idylic small-town life in the early 1900s. With Judy Garlend (78855).

5.00 Coronation Street (R)(T) (7855).

6.00 Granada News (T) (867720).

6.05 Soccer Sunday (488213). 6.45 News; Weather (T) (123403).

7.00 Biff Bryeon's Notes from a Small Island. Travelogue (S)(T)

7.30 Coronation Street (T) (923).

8.00 Who Wants to Be e Millionaire? Blg-money quiz show (S) (T) (4872).

8.30 Heartbeat (S) (T) (70687).

9.30 London's Burning. Blue Watch grieve over Nick's death (S) (T) (72233).

10.30 News; Weather (T) (555395).

10.45 The South Bank Show. Profile of singer John Tomfinson (S)(T) (451671)

11.45 Faith and Music (T) (219497). 12.15 Still in Bed with MeDinner (T) (5720275).

12.50 Hearts on Fire (1991). Tom Skerritt hires nurse Marg Helgenberger to help tend his wife (173614).

2.35 seaQuest DSV (S) (8158256), 3.30 Jonathen Dimbleby (S)(T) (1712140). 4.20 Cybernet (R)(S) (95973546). 4.45 ITV Nightscreen (5562459). 5.30 News (70256), To 6am.

Channel 4

6.05 Bitt and Ted's Excellent Adventures (7961300). 6.35 Dog City (9944942). 7.05 Proofile Toolies (6161076). **7:10** Animal Alphabet (8161075). 7:30 Animal Alphabet (8299395). 7:45 Salty's Lighthouse (35687). 7:45 The Magic School Bus (34958). 8:45 Johnny Bravo (293584). 9:45 Catolog (512120). 9:45 Planet Pop (836294). 10:00 The Waltons (13774). 11:00 Hollyoaks (3520720). 12:40 The Waltons (3638300). 1:45 Football Italia (49734836). 3:30 Earthscape (8696229).

3.40 FILEY A Challenge For Robin Hood (1967). Straightforward re-telling of the familiar tale (503958).

5.30 Time Team. A Cumbrian family want to know why their back garden is full of Roman pottery (59942).

6.30 The Hampton Court Palace. Omnibus edition (R) (18107).

7.30 Arthouse - Loving Lenin. Arts documentary about the creation of the Lenin myth in Russia, made as the Russian people are about to vote whether his embalmed body should remain in Red Square (86774).

8.30 Hostage. First of a three-parter on the Beirut hostage crisis. Contributors include ferry Waite, Brian Keenan, Oliver North and Jill Morrell (78229).

9.30 FILM True Blue (1996). True story about an attempted mutiny by American members of the Oxford crew in the 1987 Boat Race (31080584).

11.40 Babylon 5 (161497). 12.35 Dark Skies (R)(S)(T) (B187188).

130 Elim Les Amants du Pont-Neuf (1991), Juliette Binoche plays e young artist losing her sight and getting together with doleful street punk Denis Lavant, An extravagant urban fairytale from Leos Carax (50840053).

3.40 FILM Claudia (1943). Dorothy McGuire is the titular young bride perplexed by married life (661817).

5.15 Benny the Boy Atlas, Ourky comedy (7522343). To 6am.

Channel 5

6.00 Mixing It (S)(T) (5750364) 6.30 Havakazoo (R) (7739671) 7.00 Dappledown Farm (R) (9167132) 7.30 Dappiedown Farm (H) (916/132). 7-36 Mikshakel (S) (3205215). 7-35 Wimzie's House (R) (9898045). 8-00 Do You Beseve In? (S) (1165836). 8-30 The Revelation Game (S) (2746519). 9-05 Stolch' Around (2833590). 9-30 Kabiami. (R)(S) (9930836), 10.00 Mirror, Mirror (7720923), 10.30 The Valley Between (R) (1177671), 11.00 Deria (R) (S) (4576294). 11.30 Singled Out (R)(S) (4577923).
12.00 The Mag (S) (79442836). 110 5
News (S)(T) (79066841). 1.20 Frostrup on Sunday (S) (18206010). 1.50 Performance (82726671). 2.55 Family Affairs Omnibus (R) (S) (T) (91961497).

(1987). Rubber-faced Jim Varney is e wow with kids in America. Warning: he makes Jerry Lewis look normal (T) (86878497).

7.00 From Jesus to Christ. Documentary series about the rise of Christianity, presented by Terry Walte. This episode considers the political and social climate which influenced how the story of Jesus was told and eventually written as the Gospels (S)(T) (5620316).

9.00 Call of the Wild. Wildlife documentary examining the world of the mountain gorilla, a peacetul, family-minded, even humorous vegetarian who seeks to avoid trouble (R)(T) (5533836).

9.00 No One Would Tell (1996).
Candace Cameron falls for the wrong guy at high school. Gloomy melodrama with Fred Savage (T) (52239720).

10.40 The Comedy Store. Stand-up comedy at London's Comedy Store from Ari Barker, Paul Thome, Andy Robinson and Steve Gribbin (S) (3437126).

11.15 Water Rats (6962328), 12.05 Sports Talk with Steve Scott (8117121). 12.35 Ice Hockey - NHL 98: Colorado Avalanche vs Detroit Redwings (S) (39677527), 4.40 Tibs and Fibs (R) (S) (72604492). 5.05 Move On Up (R)(S) (85681633). 5.30 Wildlife SOS (R) (3205099). To 6am.

ITV/Regions

As Greeneds excepts 12.90 Cardenes, Davy GSS7850, 12.95 Border News 6534573, 2.00 Border Heritage (557200), 8.00 The Making of The Step 6971, 6.30 Carbon 657947, 8.40 Border News and Westfer 553457, 15.46 Socision 1877657, 12.45 Fells and Machines (9527), 135 Still in Bad sect Machinese (1904), 145 LAB UFO Chronicles, 543570.

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SUNDAY CHOICE

WRITER/DIRECTOR Stephen Poliakoff is an acquired taste - he is simply too opaquely high-brow for some palates. He is in typically arty territory with Shooting the Past (10.10pm BBC2), which meshes together stories from the past and present. Liam Cunningham pleys an American property developer who wishes to uproot a picture library containing 10 million images in order to build a new business school. He is met with opposition from the library employees, led by Marilyn (Lindsay Duncan) and Oswald (Timothy Spall, left).

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6.06 Farmes Facility 6/6/9, 8.20 Foomstate (999 6/6/9), 8.20 Foomstate (1999 6/6/9), 8.20

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9.044952, 14.00 NFL Dissocraf Play-Offs (23/09720),
4.00 Relation (23/0990), 8.00 American Muscle
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BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (34966), 7.00 News (1) (89343), 9.00 Kilroy (S) (T) (8738121), 9.45 The Vanessa Show (S)(T) (5101091), 10.55 News (T) (7077985). 11.00 Real Rooms (S) (7087362). 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (S)(T) (7057121), 11.55 News (T) (1280817). 12.00 Call My Bluff (S) (74362). 12.30 Battersea Dogs' Home (S)(T) (40166). **LOO** News; Weather (T) 2430). **1.30** Regional News (86761121). 1.40 Neighbours (S)(T) (65458237). 2.05 Ironside (R) (7734411). 2.55 Going for a Song (S) (8636966). 3.20 The Weather Show (S)(T) (2067817).

(5559430). **4.20** Rugrats (R)(S)(T) (6010633). **4.35** Misery Guts (S)(T) (1793053). **5.00** Newsround (S)(T) (5530782). **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (6670237).

5.35 Neighbours (S)(T) (592169).

6.00 News; Weather (T) (121).

7.00 This is Your Life (S)(T) (9898).

7.30 Watchdog Healthcheck (T) (985).

9.00 News; Weather (T) (9879).

9.30 Paddington Green. Transsaxual

10.45 Find Breach of Conduct (1994).

1245 FILM Billy Two Hats (1973).

1.50 News 24 (75129218). To 6arn.

BBC2

6.35 Taking Off (T) (7397350). 7.00 Wiggly Park (S) (1843099). **7.05** Teletubbies (R) (S) (2003256), **7.30** Yogis Treasure Hunt (R) (2396343), **7.50** Blue Peter (R) (S) (T) (2307459), **8.45** Taz-Mania 5705701), 8.40 Polka Dot Shorts (S) (8208091), 8.50 Romuald the Reindeer (S) (8204275), 9.00 Space Ark (S) (7131546). 9:10 Short Circuit (S) (6540411). 9.30 Writing and Pictures (S) (8313343). **9.45** Storytime (S) (8318896). **16.00** Teletubbies (S) (43053). **10.30** Words and Pictures (S) (5977782). **10.45** Cats' Eyes (S) (5972237). **11.00** Look and Read (S)(T) (1539546). **11.20** Zig Zag (S)(T) (6556527). **11.40** Landmarks (S)(T) (5761324). **12.05** History File (S) (4580324). **12.30** Working Lunch (40148). 1.00 Romuald the Reindeer (R)(S) (73749966). 1.30 The Arts and Crafts Hour (S) (2564508). 2.10 Sporting Greats (S) (22265904), **2.40** News (T) (8026169). **2.45** Match of Their Day (S) (1120558). **3.25** News (T) (2057430). **3.30** The Car's the Star (R)(S)(T) (8518459).

3.55 The Wiz (1978). All-black version of The Wizard of Oz (16795459).

6.00 The Simpsons (R)(S)(T) (546256).

6.20 The Simpsons (R)(S)(T) (540072).

6.45 Hit, Miss or Maybe (S)(T) (675492). 7.00 Digital Planet (S)(T) (9940).

7.30 Against the Grain (S)(T) (527).

6.00 Beat Poute. Jools Holland visits Ireland (S)(T) (6188).

8.30 Food and Drink (S) (T) (5695). 9.00 Red Dwarf (R)(S)(T) (2891).

9.30 CHOIDS The League of Gentlemen. See Choice, below (S) (T) (87324).

10.00 The Fast Show (R)(S)(T) (73633).

10.30 Newsnight (T) (294695). 11.15 Trial by Jury (S)(T) (156148). 12.00 Despatch Box (S) (26015). 12.30 Learning Zone (46764218). To 6.35am.

ITV Granada

6.00 GMTV (6860546), **9.25** Trisha (S)(T) (3634817), **10.30** This Morning (T) (65320904), **12.20** Granada News (T) (6044343), **12.30** News (T) (94614), **1.00** Home and Away (S) (T) (82613121), **1.25** Jerry Springer Show (S) (T) (8557072). 2.10 Coronation Street (R) (T) (3186140). 2.45 Dales Supermarket Sweep (S) (T) (961879). 3.15 News (T) (2055072). 3.20 Granada News (T) (2052985).

3.25 Children's ITV: Mopatop's Shop (T) (2042508). 3.35 Tots TV (R) (S) (8584430). 3.45 Captain Pugwash (S) (8571966). 4.00 Oggie and the Cockroaches (T) (6637643). 4.20 it's a Mystery (T) (4637463), 4.45 Sabrina, tha Teenage Witch (S) (T) (1717633), 5.10

5.55 Granada Tonight (T) (9326817).

7.30 Coronation Street (T) (463).

Big-money quiz show (S)(T) (3614).

Continuing her series about home improvement (T) (2121). 9.00 The Vice. Second part of the stre

apartment by her pimp (S)(T) (2459).

10.40 Nash Bridges (T) (302053).

Football League Extra (3857180). 2.40 World Football (R) (7978164).

Channel 4

6.00 Sesame Street (50904), 7.00 The Big Breakfast (S) (72053), 9.00 Schools (615546). 11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (R)(S)(T) (6782). 12.00 Sesame Street (67072). 12.30 Bewitched (R) (92256). 1.00 Pet Rescue (R)(S)(T) (75140). 1.30

1.45 You're in the Navy Now (1951). Wartime comedy, with Gary Cooper (77593614).

Roots to Success (86778411).

3.30 The Hampton Court Palace (275). 4.00 Fifteen to One (S)(T) (782). 4.30 Countdown (S)(T) (1787492). 4.55 Montel Williams (S)(T) (4898850).

5.30 Pet Rescue. A routine call turns into an emergency (S)(T) (546). 6.00 Dishes. Game show mixing cookery

and romance (459). 6.30 Hollyoaks. The merged Community College starts a new term (S)(T) (411).

7.00 News; Weather (S)(T) (410558).

7.50 Gilbert and Sullivan: the Very Models. Animation (609879). 6.00 Wild Tales. A look at the life of the domestic cat, now the most popular pet in the western world (T) (6427).

9.00 Mayday. An analysis of the work of a marine investigator, particularly focusing on the series of events following the dramatic sinking of the ferry Estonia in 1994 with the loss of 850 lives (T) (3701)

10.00 Wes (1969). Unhappy Yorkshire lad finds release in taming e kestrel. A tough look at industrial file in the North, with David Bradley and Freddie Fletcher (90209879).

12.10 Shooting Gallery (8410473). 1.00 Dispatches (32386).

2.00 Gigot (1962) Jackie Gleason plays the titular deaf-mute. With Katherine Kath (58473).

4.00 Channel 4 Schools (832034), 5.55 Sesame Street (4827676). To 7am.

(1976) (8323367), 3.35 Three Coins in the Fountain 1994 A 1995388, 5.45 Chase.

SATELLITE & CABLE

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ITV/Regions Ausgraph
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2,200394, 6,00 Home and Away (49977) 6,25*
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(89779), 5,00 Coronation Street (1774)

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SECTION 4.00 Coronation Street (1744).

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2.50 Complete Coamos (51776549; 240 Living with the Euro (888848); 8.80 Christmas in Venna (258948); 8.35 Christmas in Venna (2589492); 8.35 Christmas in Venna (2589492); 8.35 News, Felson Creet (2549782); 11.38 News, Cootmelon Street (2550702); 12.30 News, Section Creet (2549782); 12.38 News, Seven Creet (254982); 1.25 Horne and Assay (2650794); 1.25 Horne and Assay (2650794); 1.25 Horne and Assay (2650794); 1.25 Horne and Assay (2650794); 1.25 Horne (2578264); 2.55 News, (2578264); 2.55 News, (2578264); 2.55 News, (2578264); 2.55 News, (2578264); 2.55 News, (2578264); 2.50 News, (2578

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CSS/Took SARC CONTINUED SITES (1974).

SECRETARY
AS Granacia, excepts 12.20 SOCCH with a View 2005009; 12.25 Border News (SUC2922, 3.20 Border News (SUC2922, 3.20 Border News (SUC292, 3.20 Border News (SUC292, 3.20 Border News (SUC292, 3.20 Border News (SUC292, 3.20 Border News (SUC292, 3.20 Country Viet 693, 10.30 Border News (SUC292, 3.20 Country News (SUC292, 3.20 Co 12.30 Family Affairs (S)(T) (9901324). 1.00 Bold and the Beautiful (T) (9060275). **1.30** The Roseanne Show (S) (9900695). **2.00** 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (6321695). 2.30 Good Afternoon (S) (4520459).

3.30 Ellim Bachelor Knight (1947).
Playboy Cary Grant is idolsed by teenager Shirley Temple in this funny, filippant farce. With Myrna Loy (T) (9697850). 5.20 Sunset Beach (S) (6153879).

7.00 5 News (S)(T) (6325411). 7.30 Champions of the Wild. Two women devoted to the welfare of kangaroos treat

6.00 100 Per Cent (S) (5282904).

6.30 Family Affairs (S)(T) (5273256).

Channel 5

6.00 5 News 061904), **7.30** Milkshakel (S) (7500427), **7.35** Wirmzles House (R)

(9792817). **8.00** Havakazoo (R)(S) (#132509). **8.30** Dappledown Farm (R)(S) (#131879). **9.00** Was it Good for You?

Postcards (R) (4767546). **9.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (6584053). **10.20** Sunset Beach (S)(T) (2182701). **11.10** Leeza (R)(S)

(2079527). 12.00 5 News (S)(T) (1135695).

(R)(S) (2738091). 9.25 Plussel Grant's

us to e glimpse of the world of this intriguing creature (S)(T) (5262140). 9.00 Weather Front. Katle Ledger presents e series about the weather (S) (6341459).

Read Rages. The series continues by exposing some of the worst behaviour from country road users (T) (6320966). 9.00 Terror in the Family (1996). Teenage girl acts up, but dad's too busy to

notice, murns on the bottle and so's her kid brother. TV movie, with Hillary Swank (T) (52206492).

10.40 Dr Fox's Chart Update (S) (1751643). 10.45 E3TM Zanety's Bride (1974). Gene Hackman and mail-order wife Liv Ullmann endure frontier hardship (83261643).

12.35 Live and Dangerous (S) (89644299). 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (3098676). 5.30 100 Per Cent (R) (S) (1005611).

IGNACION, 5.22 Presentants (120009). INSTRUCT VIEW STRUCTURE (12.00 Continues: Despite (12.00 C

MONDAY TELEVISION

3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (3873986). 3.45 The Littlest Pet Shop (S) (3143169). 3.55 Bodger and Badger (T) (6560850). 4.50 Pocket Dragon Adventures (S) (T)

6.00 EastEnders (S)(T) (8546).

Jackie McAutiffe has to make e decision

Gregory Peck and Desi Amaz Jr take the leads in this odd-couple western (578676).

THE LEAGUE OF GENTLEMEN (9.30pm BBC2, left) is the six-part TV debut of the Perrier Award-winning quartet of Jeremy Dyson, Mark Gatiss, Steve Pemberton and Reece Shearsmith. Three of them (Dyson writes but does not perform) inhabit some 60 smalltown grotesques from the fictional corthern town of Royston Vasey. In the first episode, we meet e transsexual taxi driver, a compulsive toad-breeding couple, the unsympathetic Restart Officer retraining the local Joh Seekers, and a vet who's forever putting down the wrong animals.

Home and Away (S)(T) (8200594). **5.40** News; Weather (T) (477411).

7.00 Wish You Were Here...? (T) (4966).

9.00 Who Wants to Be e Millions 8.30 Carol Vorderman's Better Homes

of-London drama sees prostitute Nikki being violently evicted from her plush

10.00 News; Weather (T) (77459). 10.30 Granada News (T) (517188).

11.40 Billy Bathgate (1991).

Dustin Hoffman stars as Dutch Schultz in this gangster drama (1) (142324).

3.05 House of Dracula (1945). Monster party (5945763). **ITV Nightscreen** (8083638), **5.30** News (14270), To 6am.

9354955) C.OU Sumo (40152237), 10.00 Harosa 17195230, 76.00 Motors E2214031), 16.30 Closs, UNC Gooks! 4006643, 7.30 Neighbours 9077982, 2.46 EastEndars (100601), 8.30 The Bill (100702), 8.30 Th

Social Sunday (80957) 8.40 HTV News (S33497) 12.25 - 8.00 As Angles (S33497) 12.25 - 8.00 As Angles (S33497) 12.25 - 8.00 As Angles (S33497) 12.25 - 8.00 As Angles (S33497) 12.25 - 8.00 As Angles (S33497) 18.50 Shrive Rempie (7857781) 8.50 Sunday Rempie (S337780) 8.50 Shrive Rempie (7857781) 8.50 Sunday Rempie (S33697) 19.30 Finnch is Room (S22789) 84.45 Reinhaussiano (S355857) 19.35 Sunday Rempie (8467878) 12.30 Shrive (S355855) 18.35 Sunday Rempie (8467878) 12.30 Shrive (S355855) 18.35 Sunday Rempie (S45678) 12.30 Shrive (S47830) 1.00 The Vibe (7467855) 12.35 Fair Beaut the Beauts and Chrism (S657857) 12.35 Fair Beaut the Seate (S47830) 1.00 The Vibe (7467855) 1.36 Fair Rempie (S47830) 1.00 The Vibe (7467857) 1.36 Fair Rempies (S47830) 1.00 The Vibe (7467857) 1.36 Fair Rempies (S47830) 1.00 Shrive (S47830) 1.00 Shr

6.30 Regional News (T) (701).

8.30 Dad. George Cole is back for e new run of the gentle sitcom (S)(T) (7053).

about surgery (S) (T) (89782). 10.00 Panorama. Current effairs (S) (340188).

MONDAY CHOICE

Sky Sports 1 790 for Footel Soc

NEEKEND REVIEW

IADIO 1 775-99.8MHz FM) '00 Mark Goodier 10.00 'hris Moyles 1.00 Lisa l'Anson. 3.00 Radio 1's R 'n' B Chart. 5.00 Judge Jules. 7.00 Danny Party. 9.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show. 12.00 Radio 1 Reggae Dancehall Nite. 2.00 Essential Mix: Pete Heller, 4.00 -6.30 Annie Nightingale.

RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM) 6.00 Mo Dutta. 8.05 Brian Matthew. 10.00 Sean Hughes.
1.00 What's the Bleeding Time?
See Pick of the Day. 1.30 Love
New Balls Please. 2.00 Alan Freeman, 3.30 Johnnie Walker. 5.30 Paul Gambaccini, 7.00 Pink Floyd - in Their Own Words 8.00 Del Amitri in Concert. 9.00 Suzi Quatro: Flockin' with Suzi Q. 10.00 Bob Harris, 1.00 Lynn Parsons, 4.00 - 7.00 Mo Dutta.

RADIO 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM) 6.00 On Air. 9.00 CD Review. 12.00 Private Passions. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert 2.00 Best of 3. 3.00 Youth Orchestras of the

4.15 The Finishing Touch. 5.00 Jazz Record Requests. 6.00 Jazz Century.
6.30 Opera on 3. Radio 3's winter season of operas from the New York Metropolitan Opera House continues with Janacek's searing masterpiece 'Katya abanova. The eponymous herohe, said Janacek, is 'so gentle that if the sun shone fully on her she would melt. But can this tender nature survive the cold and oppressive society which envelopes Katya, epitomised by her tyrannical mother-in-law Kabanicha? Catherine Malfitano. soprano (Katya), Peter Straka, tenor (Boris), Mark Baker, tenor (Tichon), Metropolitan Opera Chorus and Orchestra/Charles Mackerras. Acts 1 and 2 See

Pick of the Day. 7.45 The Met Opera Quiz, Cori Ellison puts listeners' questions to Carolyn Abbate, Ken Benson and Fan Cameron

6.00 Never Too Late (1996) (35199), 8.00 Amy (1981) (55606), 10.00 The Boy Who

Could Fly (1986) (14286), 12.00 Never Too Late (1996) (78557), 2.00 Amy (1981)

(1996) (30248), 10.00 Letters from a Kiler

(1998) (528793). **11.50** Screamers (1995)

(294644), 1.40 Feast of July (1995)

(155744). 3.35 - 6.00 Bottle Rocket

7.00 Et (90129), 7.30 Action Heroes (8797151). 8.35 Movie Magic (2954606).

99). 2.15 Movie Megic (3026151).

65135538), 6.30 Femmes Fatales (6489).

See Pick of the Day. 7.00 Theodore Rex

The Associate (1996) (13034). See Pick of

the Day, 10.30 Eddie (1995) (30516644) See Pick of the Day, 12.10 Up Close and Personal (1996) (72661958), 2.15 Twin

Town (1997) (814855), 3.55 - 6.00 Politer-gelst III (1968) (89266039).

11.00 The Dark Past (1948) (3417199).

(6051083). **2.00** Going My Way (1944) (19220828). **4.05** House of Seven Gables

(1940) (26682731). **6.00** The Lighthorsemen (1988) (7561977). **8.00** The Sniper

(1989) (6962836). 2.40 Cruising (1980) (2686039). 4.25 Love Me Tender (1956)

8.00 Forbidden Planet (1956) (7446151). 6.00 Big Wednesday (1978) (7458996). 10.00 The Doors (1991) (79612373).

(1989) (1998213). **4.30 - 6.00** THX 1138 (1970) (4478855).

4.00 Battle for the Skies (6730606). 5.00 Wartare (1585083). 8.00 Wartare

(409318). 7.00 Super Structures (940354). 6.00 Storm Force (9429002). 9.00 Shark Hunters (9416538). 10.00

Forensic Detectives (9419625). 11.00 War-

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

12-20 Point Break (1991) (60148316), 2.25 Ur Sukidoji: Legend of the Overfiend

(1952) (7566422). **10.00** The Young Lions (1958) (78416422). **12.45** The Rainbow

12.30 Three Faces West (1940)

(1995) (26977). See Pick of the Day. 8.30

3.00 Married to a Stranger (1997) (18892903), 4.45 Tell Me No Lies (1991)

9.00 Married to a Stranger (1997) (77828), **1L0**0 The Public Eye (1972) (37427), **1.00** El (97170), **1.30** Heroes

SKY PREMIER

(1996) (82458958).

SKY CINEMA

(31973710). 5.55 Close.

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SATURDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

GRAEME GARDEN'S series of medicine-related humour, What's the Bleeding Time? (1pm R2), comes to a close with a number of psychiatry sketches. Athough an obvious subject for double-acts (there are samples of Fry and Laurie and the Two Ronnies), there is a very welcome repeat of the are some solo gems, including thoughts on faith of Anglo-Welsh a typically monomaniacal riff from Jackie Mason.

8.10 Katya Kabanova, Act 3. 8.55 The Brains Trust Joan

Bakewell chairs the discussion

Service, in which leading minds in

the fields of art, science, religion

intellectual issues. Guests in this

programme are historian Theodore Zeldin, theologian the

Rev Angela Tilby, mathematician

Prof lan Stewart, and visual arts

Kovacevich (piano). Beethoven:

String Quartet in C minor, Op 18

No 4. Schumann: Kinderszenen.

Mozart: Piano Quartet in E flat.

10.55 BBC Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Martyn Brabbins. Taylor: Conflict and Consolation

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night

for wind ensemble. Colin

brass and percussion.

11.30 Jazz on 3.

(924-946MHz FM)

6.05 Sports Desk.

6.10 Open Country.

9.00 Home Truths. 10.00 News; Double Vision.

1L00 News; The Food

11.30 From Our Own

6.57 Weather.

7.00 Today.

Programme.

Correspondent.

6.00 News Briefing.

RADIO 4

Matthews: Quatrain for wind,

professor Ludmilla Jordinova.

9.40 Quartet and Piano.

K493

Petersen Quartet, Stephen

and philosophy debate important

The highlight of Radio 3's day is Opera on 3 (6.30pm). Janacek's Katya Kabanovo, conducted by Charles Mackerras with the New York Metropolitan Opera, has Catherine Malfitano in the none-too-gentle lead. Still No Truce (12.25am R4)

poet RS Thomas (right).

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

12.00 News; Money Box. 12.30 The Ghost of Number Ten. 12.55 Weather. programme, originally launched in 1941 on BBC Radio's Home **1.00** News. 115 Any Questions? 2.00 News; Any Answers? 0870 010 0444. 2.30 Empire Warriors. 3.00 News; The Saturday Play: Seven Circles around the Fire. 4.00 News; Woman's Hour. 5.00 Saturday PM.

5.30 Talking Pictures. 5.54 Shipping Forecast. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.15 Live from London. 7.00 News; Saturday Review 7.45 Gerry's Bar, Gerry Anderson presents a series of reflections on life in Ireland. 1: Opening Time. 8.00 News; The Archive Hour:

Tomorrow at the Same Time. James Thurber's study of American radio soap operas in the 40s offers us a guide to that most maligned of art forms. Author Jeffrey Robinson returns to an age when Soaptown was the model for how Americans should live. 9.00 News; The Classic Serial: The Rose and the Ring, By William Makepeace Thackeray, adapted for radio by Ellen Dryden. Rome, 1853. Unable to find any Christmas entertainment for the four children in his charge, Thackeray invents his own fireside pantomime to keep them amused. With Prunella Scales

10.15 Them and Us. Diana Madifl presents the second in a series of lively debates about the major issues of the day. Proposition: The asylum system is too great a burden on the host country. From Haringey Civic Centre,

North London. 11.00 News; At the Foot of the Mountain. Robert Dawson Scott invites a performer or composer to revisit a major musical challenge. This week, the composer Anthony Payne looks back at the long and sometimes controversial task of completing Elgar's Third Symphony, working from sketch-es left by Elgar at his death. 11.30 Fine Lines. (R) 12.00 News.

12.25 Experimental Feature: Still No Truce. See Pick of the Day. 12.30 The Late Story: The Fall 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.50 - 6.00 Bells on Sunday. RADIO 4 LW

(198kHz) 12.00 - 12.04 News Headines; Shipping Forecast. RADIO 5 LIVE

(693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Dirty Tackle. 6.30 Breakfast.9.00 Chiles on Saturday. 11.00 Move It. 11.30 Sick as a Parrot. 12.00 Sportscall. 1.00 Sport on 5. Football:

coverage of all the day's action, with reports, goal news and commentary on a top game in the FA Carling Premiership. Today's fixtures include Arsenal v Liverpool, Newcastle v Chelsea. and Middlesbrough v Aston Villa. Rugby Union: fourth-round matches in the Tetley Bitter Cup. Wales take on Western Samoa in an international friendly. Racing: the feature races from Sandown Park, and the Ladbroke Hurdle from Leopardstown. 6.06 Six-O-Six. 8.00 Dallyn UK. Richard Dallyn

with news from around the UK. 9.00 The Treatment, Stuart Maconie and guests review the week's news. 10.00 Late Night Currie. With Edwina Currie.

1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Moming Reports. CLASSIC FM (100.0-101.9MHz FM 6.00 Sarah Lucas. 8.00 Count-

down. 11.00 Masters of Their Art. 1.00 Mike Read. 3.00 Margaret Howard. 6.00 At the Movies. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Opera Guide. 10.00 The Classic Quiz. 12.00 Midnight Music. 2.00 Evening Concert. 4.00 - 6.00 Sunday Start. VIRGIN RADIO

(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 1058MHz FM) 6.00 Jeremy Clark. 9.00 Harriet Scott. 12.00 Classic Countdown with Russ Williams. 2.00 Rock and Roll Football 6.00 Wheels of Steel 10.00 Richard Allen. 2.00 - 6.00 Paul Coyte.

(198kHz LW) 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Music Review. 2.00 Newsday. 2.30 Agenda. 3.00 World News. 3.15 Sports Roundup, 3.30 World Business Review, 3.45 Letter from America. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Omnibus. 5.00 Newsday. 5.30 - 6.00 Watershed

WORLD SERVICE RADIO

TALK RADIO 8.00 Paul Ross. 11.30 Danny Baker and Danny Kelly. 1.00 The Sportzone, 5.30 Danny Baker and Danny Kelly. 7.30 Nancy Roberts. 10.00 Mike Allen. 2.00 6.00 Mike Dickin.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS JON SPEELMAN

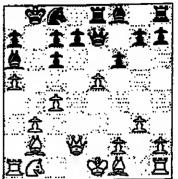
IVAN SOROLOV increased his winning margin to two clear points in the Hastings Premier on Thursday with a victory against Jim Plaskett. to end up on 7/9. The games between Sadler and myself, Ponomarios with Shipov and Saltaev and Miles were drawn, while John Emms ultimately defeated Laurent Fressinet. That left a five-way tie for second between Emms, Pocomariov, Sadler, Shipov and me on 5/9. Plaskett, Miles and Fressinet made 3.5 and Saltaev 2.5.

In the Challengers, Bogdan Lalic was leading going into the last round hut having a favourable tiebreak then took a quick draw with White. Klaus Bischoff and Saidali Indalchev both won, to catch up, and the two qualifying places for next year's Premier go to Bischoff and Lalic on tie-break, In tournaments in England, the control team always try to arrange the pairings to give people the chance of title norms and the Challengers yielded international master norms for Peter Sowray and Chris Duncan.

The World Amateur Championship ended in a tie between the Armenian Gaguik Oganessian and the Dane Dan Erichsen, with the former taking the title on tie break.

This was the 74th edition of this renerable tournament, which this time was sponsored by Hastings Borough Council with support from Onyx UK - mainly noted in chess circles for its sponsorship of the annual Grand Prix - and Castleham Industries (Hastings), which provided the programme and new demonstration boards. Long may the Hastings New Year tournaments continue!

You may think that 7/9 sounds pretty good; not to Alexander Morozevich who demolished a minus. culely weaker field in Pamplona to 14 a5 Nc8(see



the tune of 8/9. His margin too, was two clear points because Michal Krasenkow got 6 while Loek van Wely was third on 5.

This is how Morozevich demolished the former Women's World Champion.

In this extremely sharp line of the Scotch small differences can have a huge effect. In the diagram there has been a previous game, admittedly between hugely weaker op-ponents, in which White had played 15 Bg2. 15 Bh3! is an enormous improvement since if 15... d6 16 e6. Morozevich quickly got a big advantage and at the end was delivering mate.

White: Alexander Morozevich Black: Xie Jun

Scotch Game diagram) 15 Bh3 fxe5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 16 Qxd7 Qf6 4 Nxd4 Nf6 17 0-0 Bc5 5 Nxc6 bxc6 18 Nc3 Nd6 6 e5 Qe7 19 Qxc6 Nb7 7 Qe2 Nd5 20 Qd7 Rd8 8 c4 Ba6 21 Nd5 Rxd7 22 Nxf6 Rd2 9 b3 0-0-0 10 g3 Re8 23 Nd7+ Ka8 11 Bb2 f6 24 Bxe5 Bb4 12 Qd2 Nb6 25 Bxc7 Nc5 26 Bg2+ Bh7 13 .a4 Kb8

Game all; dealer Sonth

North

27 Nb6+ 1-0

BRIDGE

WELL SATISFIED with his efforts on this deal, South complacently wrote down the score, Behind him, the solitary spectator (breaking one of the unwritteo laws of kibitzing) made disapproving noises. Can you see why?

South opeced Oce Spade and North forced to game with 2 Notrumps (agreeing spades). South's oext bid of Three Spades conventionally suggested an interest in progress hut denied possession of a short suit. Undeterred, North cue-bid Four Clubs and then Four Hearts over South's cext move of Four Diamonds. The partners then showed their second round controls in clubs and diamonds hut there seemed to be something vital missing in hearts and they stopped accurately in Six Spades, against which West led AQ.

The exact duplication of distribution was annoying and, with an almost certain heart loser, the only danger lay in a 3-0 trump break. It seemed a complete guess and, after winning the lead in hand, declarer led + K to expose the position and, shortly afterwards, claimed.

So why was the kibitzer upset?

◆A 10 6 5 4 ♥AJ4 **♦K82 4**A3 East +Q82 **♠**none VK93 ♥10765 ◊1074 ◊9653 **♣QJ107 498642** South **◆**KJ973 **VOS2 ◊**AQJ **+**K5

East, if anyone, held all three missing trumps hut a good technician would have led a low trump to the ace at trick two. The point is that if (as happens) West proves to have a trump trick there is still the possibility that he holds ♥ K as well. So, when the position is revealed, declarer simply cashes + K, plays off all his minor suit winners, finesses VJ. then exits with a trump. West, on lead, will have to lead away from his ♥ K or concede Of course there was no reason why a ruff and discard

SATELLITE AND CABLE

and Maureen Lipman.

10.00 News and Weather.

PICK OF THE DAY

WHOOPI GOLDBERG'S career (8.30pm), she has to dress up such as The Color Purple and Ghost. Her career is assessed in York Knicks. Femmes Fatales (6.30pm Sky Moviemax), which is followed Theodore Rex (7pm), a fantasy comedy, Goldberg (right) plays a cop teamed with a geneticallyengineered dinosaur. For Daniel

has been marked by peaks and as a white male Wall Street troughs - there have been long financier. Eddie: (10.30pm) gaps between impressive work casts her as a basketball fan who becomes coach of the New Despite a thin spell Bath

remain a formidable cup outfit by an evening of her movies. In and they should have a hardfought encounter against the reigning league champions in Newcastle vs Bath (1.30pm Sky Sports 2).

JAMES RAMPTON



fare (1232921), 12.00 Warfare (3940213). 1.00 Weapons (2533294), 2.00 Close.

Petrie's comedy The Associate

SKY ONE 7.00 Bump in the Night (90101). 7-30 Street Sharks (99538), 8-00 Sinbad (90489), 8-00 The Simpsons (67880). 9.30 Garfield and Friends (71052). 10.00 Chris Evans Show (88422), 11.00 Wrestling (40606). 12.00 Wrestling (91335). 1.00 Superman (21583). 2.00 America's Dumbest Criminals (3422). 2.30 America's Dumbest Criminals (9712), 3.00 Guity! (49903). 4.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (25828). 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (3809). 6.00 Xena: Warrior Princess (20847). Z.00 The Simpsons (4538). **7.30** The Simpsons (7977), **8.00** Earth: Final Conflict (36422), **9.00** Earth: Final Conflict (56286), 10.00 Star Trake Voyager (59373). 11.00 Beat the Crusher (3915)). **12.00** Showbiz Weekly (51565). **12.30** The Big Easy (56774). **1.30** Fire (48584). **2.30** - **6.00** Long Play

SKY SPORTS 1 6.00 Hold the Back Page (89248), 7.00 Sports Centre (24460), 6.00 Aerobics (46996), 8.30 Racing News (45267), 9.00 Hold the Back Page (18977), 10.00 World Tenpin Bowling Masters (37712), 11.00 Max Power (24248), 12.00 Gillette Socce Saturday (3963063), 5.30 NFL Divisional Play-offs (2474731), 12.30 Spanish Football (33478). 2.30 Rugby Union Tetley's Bitter Cup (98942). 4.00 American Muscle (56861). 4.30 Max Power (99774). 5.30 - 8.00 Wild Spirits (94294). SKY SPORTS 2 8-00 Motorcycling (2078248). 7.00 Aerobics · Oz Style (9890538). 7.30 Racing News (9802373), 8.00 Soccer AM

(7248199). 12.00 Motorcycling (7821489). 1.00 Gilletta World Sport Special (9899809). **1.30** Ford Rugby Union Tetley's Bitter Cup Fourth Round: New tle vs Bath (2527489). See Pick of the Day. 4.00 Ford Golf USA (3299847). 8.00 Ford Golf USA US Skills Chell (8808538), 6.00 World Motor Sport (7895625). **11.00** Motorcycling (9809288) 12.00 Dancing IDSF Open Latin (6474010), 1.00 Ford Golf USA (5683687). 3.00 Gliette World Sport Special (9509497), 3.30 · 7.00 International Cricket Australia vs England (2592923).

SKY SPORTS 3 12.00 Dancing IDSF Open Latin (68242644). 1.00 Fish TV World Carp Classic 1998 (88228064), 2.00 World Motorsport (41980606), 5.00 Wild Spirits (19775489). 5.30 Football Scrapbook (37/3432) 7:00 Wetersports (40202809). 8.00 Spanish Footbal (40215373) 10.00 Ford Rugby Union Tetley's Bitter Cup Fourth Round (50844847) 11.30 American Muscle (13028354). 12.00 Close. EUROSPORT 7.30 Raily: Deker 99 (33996), 6.00 Car on Ice (31064), 8.30 Cross-Country Sking (30335), 9.00 Blathion (8814373).

9.45 Cross-Country Skiing (5990408) 10.00 Alpina Sking (22880). 11.00 Alpina Sking (22880). 11.00 Alpina Sking (22880). 11.00 Alpina Sking (26844). 12.00 Biathlon (2128793). 12.45 Ski Jumping (605809). 2.45 Cross-Country Sking (8885354). 4.00 Femilia (728335). 7.30 Football (62248). 9.30 Raily (39199). 10.00 Boxing (86441). 11.00 Speed Skating (94373). 12.30 Raily (74942). 1.00 Close. LIK GOLD

7.00 Bio Break (7937719), 7.30 Neigh-July by Breist (1937) 5, 7,30 height bours Omnibus (34056642), 9,25 Dellas Omnibus (30514538), 12,10 EastEnders Omnibus (25503064), 2,55 The Bill Omnibus (30827996), 5,15 Butterfiles (7780441). **5.50 Film:** Champions (1983) (13452267). **8.00** The Detectives (2944847), **8.40** Specially Selected Canned Carrott (4715847), **9.35** Men Deniving Badly (344257), 9-35 Men Behaving Badly (344257), 10-15 Red Dwarf IV (2806606), 10-55 One Foot in the Grave (5549151), 11-35 French and Saunders (3829151), 12-15 The Man from Auntie (5414861). 12.50 French and Saunders (3946584). 1.25 The Man from Auntie (1900213), 1.55 The Onedin Line (10421836). 3.00 - 7.00 Shopping with

6.00 Tiny and Crew (49885557). **6.20** Philbert the Frog (29761644). **6.30** Johnson and Friends (64569460). **6.45** Tiny Tales (17993977), 6.50 Polks Dot Shorts (17907170), 7.00 Practical Parenting (5267712), 7.05 10 plus 2 (6331422), 7.20 Bedtime Stories (5254248), 7.25 Tiny and

(5171286), 7.35 Bug Alert (6211422), 7.55 Practical Parenting (6792538), **6.00** Greedysaurus and the Gang (6018083). 8.05 Tiny and Crew '98 (6017354), 8.10 Philbert the Frog (3355996), 8.15 Polka Dot Shorts (6768002), 8.30 Tiny Tales (748538), 8.35 Tiny and Crew (8869248), 8.50 Practical Parenting (939218), 8.05 Can't Cook, Worlt Cook (7427296), 9.35 Peach, Stock Cook (7427296), 9.35 Maury Povich (6775731). **11.00** Living Issues (6305538). **11.30** The Roseanne Show (6306267). **12.00** Entertainment Now! (2986354). 12.30 LA Law (5440880), 3.00 Film: Thicker than Blood (1993) (1245170). **5.00** Special Babies (8182335). **5.30** Animal Rescue (1698441). 8.00 Film: Samantha (1992) (7592847), 8.00 Rescue 911 (811)847). 8.30 Beyond Belief (8190354). 9.00 Jerry Springer Double Bit (7563335). 11.00 The Sex Files (3623248). 12.00 Close. TNT

Crew '98 (5286847), 7.30 Caillou

9.00 2010 (1984) (36986422). 11.15 Brain-storm (1983) (14830460). 1.15 Catlow (1971) (60612565). 3.00 2010 (1984) (34033364), 6.00 Close.

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL

7.00 Cueless (477), 7.30 Desmonds (4809), 8.00 Roseanne (2278), 8.30 Just Shoot Me (9625), 8.00 Cybil (54354), 8.30 Seinfeld (85373), 10.00 Filtra: Love and Death (1975) (11335). 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show (18539). 12.00 Duckman (91107), 12-30 Vacant Lot (50316), 1.00 Comedy Store (30774), 1.30 Cub Class (71565), 2.00 Dr Katz (57923), 2.30 Soap (59958), 3.00 Tibs and Fibs (47010), 3.30 Nightstand (60010), 4.00 Close. **GRANADA PLUS**

6.00 Jason King (9654373). 7.00 Bootsi and Snudge (5617257). 7.30 Leave it to Charlie (1848052). 8.00 Holding the Fort (5813538). 8.30 Mind Your Language (5812809). 9.00 Mission Impossible (9711373). 10.00 The Persuaders (5448016). 11.00 Jeeves and Wooster (5543660). 12.00 The Bounder (5816625). 2.30 Emmerdale (3146844) 3.00
Bonarza (7506354) 4.00 The High
Chaperral (7525489) 5.00 Hawaii Five-O
(5556267) 6.00 The Persuaders (8565712), 7.00 Mission Impossible (5938606), 8.00 Jeeves and Wooster (5947354), 9.00 El CID (596718), 10.00 The Odd Couple (5877354) 10.30 Hogan's Heroes (5826002) 11.00 As Granada Men & Motors until 2.00am (4585712), 2.00 Close.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 N IRELAND As BBC1 England except: 4.40 Final Score (9355880), 4.55 Northern Ireland Results (9974915). 5.25 Ne

BBC1 SCOTLAND As BBC1 England except: 5.25 Reporting Scotland (8713844). **BBC1 WALES** As BBC1 England except: 4.40 Final Score (9355880), 4.56 Wales on Saturday - the Results (9374915), 5.25 les on Saturday - the Magazine (1870847).

ANGLIA ANGLIA
As LWT except: 12.30 Pirate TV
(58606) 1.05 Anglia News and Weather
(977)0847) 1.40 Champions of the
Fut le (65595712) 2.30 Film: Operation
Bullshine. Romantic shenarilgers at a
remote coastal command post in 1942.
Consistently unfurny facts with Dorald
States. Copple Localet Shinet. Sinden, Carole Lesley, Ronald Shiner. (285793), 3.45 Airwolf (4635286), 4.55 Angle News and Weather (1219751), 2.15 Angua News and Weather (1279'51). 2.15 Highlander (6877958). 3.05 Box Office America (34175958). 3.35 World Football (1440432), 4.00 CD UK (4272377). 4.55 ITV Nightscreen (1808749).

CENTRAL CENTRAL
As LWT except: 12.30 Premiere
(\$8606). 1.05 Central News and Westher
(\$4790847). 1.40 Early Edition (168416).
2.35 Film: The Golden Voyage of Sinbad.
John Philip Law a rather stiff Sinbad in
so-so panio boosted by Ray
Harryheusen's enimated monsters. With
Caroline Munno, Dougles Wirner, Tom
Baker. (8582795). 4.55 Central News
and Weather (7551606). 4.00 Jobfinder
(12687). 9.00 Spotight Asia (19126).
MTV WALES.

HTV WALES As LWT except: 12.30 Movies, Games and Videos (58806), 1.05 HTV News (94790847), 1.40 Campus Cops (65595712), 2.10 Airwolf (2083441), 2.55 seaQuest DSV. Futuristic series in which a giant submarrie patrols the world's new underwater communities. (5715480), 3.45 RoboCop. Gadget is caught in a custody fight and leaves Sgt Parks to be reunited with her real mother, (4635286), 4.55 HTV Wates News and Sport (129151), 2.45 Highlander (6877958), 3.05 Box Office America (3475958), 3.35 World Seathel Manager, 4.00 CD LK Football (14404132), 4.00 CD UK (4272377), 4.55 ITV Nightscreen

HTV WEST

As HTV Wales except: 12.30 As HTV Wales except: 12.30 Sportsweek. Matt Arnold presents highlights of the weeks sporting events in the West Country. (58606). 1.00 News; Weather (84768248). 1.40 Movies, Garnes and Videos (85565742). 4.55 HTV West News and Sport (1219151). 10.00 News Headines; National Weather (699605). MERIDIAN

ME-HBI-LAN As LWT except: 12.30 Dinosaurs (\$806). 1.05 Meridian News and Weather (\$4790847). 1.40 Champions of the Future (\$5595712). 2.10 The London Boat Show (22318286). 2.40 Cartoon (3838828). 2.50 Film: Columbo - Its Al in the Game. Peter Falk in yet another outing as the dishevelled detective, this time investigating the murder of a wealthy gambler. Prime suspect Faye Dunaway talls to lead him a merry chasa. With Claudia Christian. Armando Pucci. (84795793). 4.55 Meridian News and Weather (1219151). 2.15 Highlander. Swashbuckling adventure that pits ancient time-traveling warriors against one another (6877958). 3.05 Box Office America (3475958). 3.35 World Football (14404132). 4.00 CD UK (4272377). 4.55 TV Nightscreen (1808749).

WESTCOUNTRY

WEST COUNTRY

As LIVT except: 12.30 Movies,
Games and Videos (58006). 1.05
Westcountry News (94790847). 1.40 The
Making of The Slege (65595712). 2.30
Cartoon Time (62444809). 2.35 Film:
1941. Panicky civillens and equally edgy
military await a full-scale Japanese
Invasion following the attack on Pearl
Harbor. The wholesale destruction of various parts of Los Angeles is depicted with fanatical attention to detail in Steven Spielberg's fever-pitch comedy epic. Stunning to look at but not always funny. With Dan Aykroyd, John Belushi. (65627915). 4.55 Westcountry News (1219151). 10.00 News; Weekend Weather (699606). 2.15 Highlander (6877958). 3.05 Box Office America. The chematic show that reviews the top ten films in the LISA near area in the control of the series. USA and previews forthcoming releases (3475958), 3.35 World Football (1440432), 4.00 CD UK (4272377), 4.55 iTV Nightscreen (1808749).

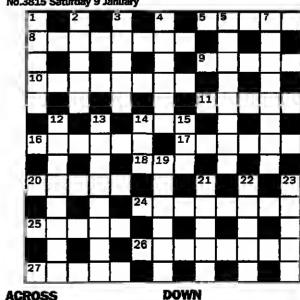
YORKSHIRE As LWT except: 12.30 Dinosaurs (58606). 1.05 Calendar News and Weather (94790847). 4.55 Calendar News and Weather (1235199). 5.05

TYNE TEES As Yorkshire except: 1.05 North East News (94790847), 4.55 Local News (7551606), 5.00 Full Time (5661606).

SAC

el 4 except: 7.00 Madelin (11549170). 7.25 Animal Alphabet (52983002). 8.00 Transworld Sport (40152098). 9.00 The Morning Line (52386847), 10.00 Rugby World (47193809), 5.05 Newyddion A Chwaraeon (38055034), 540 Y Clwb Rygbi (50362606), 7.45 Newyddion (53866771), 9.00 Marti Grae (506204 (53866170), **9.00** Mardi Gras (50629462). **9.00** O Flaen Dy Lygaid (36229606). **10.00** Film: Play Dirty. Stiffly-cast antiwar actioner watching an army officer leading a grubby bunch of ex-con's on a mission impossible in WWII Africa, Michael Caine, Nigel Davenport, Nigel Green and Harry Andrews star. Melvyn Bragg was one of the writers behind the gutt one of the writers behind the gutting shock finale. (37390977). 12.30 Heroes of Comedy (84342039). 1.30 Tottenham 2 (70427652). 1.40 Mod Squad (51954958). 2.40 John's Oream (39259213). 2.45 Docs Strange Oprogram (292584720). 2.45 Mod Squad (78231836). 3.40 Vits (18298667). 3.40 Hill Street Blues (73217213). 4.30 St Elsewhere (12488565). 5.20 Close.

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

Caper (5) Biased (8) Points total (5) 10 Anonymous (8)

11 Drawbacks (5) 14 Avail oneself of (3) 16 Football (6)

17 Boundaries (6) 18 None (3) 20 Surplus to requirements

24 Notorious (8) 25 Drying cloth (5)

26 Vegetable (8) 27 Gemstone (5)

Water (8) 12 Opening (8) 13 Hardly (8)

14 Vessel for tea (3) 15 Old cloth measure (3) 19 Disregard (6) 21 Observe (5) 22 Punctuation mark (5) 23 Savoury jelly (5)

Cord (5)

Entire (5)

Florida resort (5)

Soubriquet (8)

Population count (6)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: I Impress, 5 Saree (Impresari), 8 Inept, 9 Pannier, 10 Gaberdine, 12 Ash, 13 Edible, 14 Median, 17 Ram, 18 Challenge, 20 Aerobic, 21 Value, 23 Knead, 24 Sandpit, DOWN: 1 Icing, 2 Pie, 3 Enthral, 4 Septic, 5 Sense, 6 Reination, 7 Earthen, 11 Bam-marie, 13 Emmark, 15 Enliven, 16 Dances, 18 Cubed,



JASPER REES TELEVISION REVIEW

stewors hod nominated as their favourite. It was a remorkable show, but an evon more remorkable cholee, because Frasier himself was on vacultin and Kolsoy Gracimer inpicured in only one fleeting seene. Yon wunder whather Grammer would take that vote if no-enalldonee as badly us his character would.

Berley, Frasier has stand Berley, Frasier has stapped into Seinfeld's shoes in NBC's prestigious spm slot on Thursdays. The studio audience duly gave it a knowing laugh. The camers pulled beck to reveat that this was only a screen test, and that Frasier has by no means got a new job. There's a sense in which the character is audifuloning not only in America ae Seitfeld's replacement, but also for the British audience, whose favourite epleode was the one in which Niles took Daphne to a ball after his date dropped out. In this new series, their romance has finally been allowed to blossom. They may as well atart calling the show Niles. There has been only one episode of Gimme on boilday in the first scene and never come back. In this dream episode their neighbour, a retired prostitute, wouldn't have to complain about the noise. "Ambient trip hop I can put up with," she drawled last night, "but when you put on Acker Bilk I was sick." There's no octress on the planct who could make that line ains.

that line sing.
On paper, this flatshare sitcom has enough going for it. It sees Kathy Barke as o lonely, bitter nymphumantac, and Jumes Druyhu us a gay actor between jobs. The script is by Joanthau Horvey.

GENTURY ROAD (8:10pm BBC2, right) Century Road mear Great Yarmouth is one of many streets of that name built at the turn of the century. It's also the first of four Century Roads featured in this new series – o fascinating oral history of the 20th century as told by the residents of these imprepossesting terraced houses. Among the neighbours is one of the first British soldiers to enter Belson, a min wounded on D-Day and the thughter of a First World War conscientious objector. The street itself received a direct hit from the Linftwoffe. Dn a more peaceful note, regulars remember Great Yarmouth's long-lost

AS PART OF "Frasior Night" on New Year's Day, Chonnel 4 screened the episode which

In the new surles (CA), Fraster hus been lived from tACL and appears to have landed a job as o TV shrink. We found him welcoming viewere to his new slot, and making respectful noises obout the previous occupant. American viewera would have read that as o subtextuel homage to plays meke wry observations on gay life. In n play, you can imagine him riffag subtimely on u ecenario in which a straight woman and a gay num both lech ofter the sume hank. But is there enough in it for an entire series?

Hacking my brain, i can't think of any playwrights who have successfully written skeems, or vicu versa, unloss you count Patrick Marber's co-writing credit on Knosing Me, Knaudag Yon. The rhythms of the two forms are so different that excellence in one area is no goarantee of the two forms of the two forms of the two forms of the two forms are so different that excellence in one area is no goarantee of the awful skiteoms. Harvest grown in

tho campiness of the awful sitecoms Harvey grew up on, in the form of an impersonation. He's got the campiness down to a T, with his frank atlusions to gay lore, but he's also got the awfutness, too. Harvey uses a much broeder brush then he would for theatre, and, for the most part, the dialogue is too frenzied, too eager to make an impression.

In truth, it is done no favours by the cashing. Burke and Drayfus are the obvious choices for these roles, but maybe they're too obvious. I know they're meant to be doing caricatures, but their overacting has the ring of desperation about it, as if the only way to get a laugh is to beg for it. There are occasional flasbes of subtle brilliance from Burke, but this is not the psychologically detailed study that, from the svidence of her interview in The Independent this week, she thinks she's giving.

she thinks she's giving.
At one point, they wonder whether the mysterious man in their flat is a ventriloquiat, solely so thet Burke can utter the line, "I wouldn't mind bim sticking bis hand up my skirt and making my lips move," Between then, the writing and the acting have created something too grotsque. As for Dreyfus, who did one hilarious minchig routine, he'd be twice os furny if he gave half the performance. In the cnd, you need some reason to like sitcom characters. Frasier, for all his ventally, is rewarding company. These two seem to lute thomselves and each other. How can we be expected to feel any differently?

BBC

The Munstera (R) (T) (2142199). 7.25 News; Weather (3449278). 7.30 Firemen Sam (R) (3435460). 7.40 The incredible Hulk (R) (T) (3019286). 8.05 Hero Turtiee: the Next Mutetion (S) (8693642). 8.30 The New Adventures of Superman (R) (S) (T) (2320731). 9.15 Live and Kicking (S) (50673335).

12.10 ## News | Weather (T) (6175267), 12.15 Grandeland (S) (6174538), 12.20 Football Foous (8273783), 1.45 Racing from Leopardelown (78200647), 1.55 Skiing (86600064), 2.20 Racing from Leopardelown (35396286), 2.30 Around the Grounds (8160198), 2.55 World Darta (3010052), 3.45 Football Half-Times (8615354), 4.00 World Darta (2423793), 4.40 Finel Score (4946441).

News: Weather (T) (5664793). 5,25 Regional News and Weether (8713644).

5.30 'Alio 'Alio. Rane hos to stesi a vintage plane (R) (T) (925063).

Jim Davidson's Qeneration Qame. The arthritic game show entertains the England under-19 lacrosed team, Jeae Corrad, Antiquus Roudshow expuri Erio Knowles and Stephon Lowis (Blakey from On the Duses) (S) (T) (934731).

10

7.04 Party (S) (T) (872120).

The Nationel Lottary Draw. Dale Wintows guests are temphoppere 911 and female country artist Reba McEntire (S) (T) (867880).

6.10 Casualty. Passione run high, as they sey, when Sean end Chice are sent to treet a prisoner held in a riof-besieged police station (S) (T) (774267).

100

9.00 Only Foole end Horsea. The Christmas edition from 1892 in which the Trotters become environmentally aware (R) (S) (T) (4537557).

10

10.05 News; Weather (T) (326248).

10.25 Metch ot the Day. Liverpool's vielt to Highbury Is, naturally, the main event, followed by Middlesbrough va Aston Ville. Commentary by Barry Daviee, Jon Chempion and Tony Gubba (S) (T) (4732364).

11.35 IIII The ipcress File (Sidney J Furle 1885 UK).
The first and best of the three Lan Deighton spy thrillers starring Michael Caine as the MiS anti-hero Harry Palmer. It's the eort of movie where retired officer types in bowler hats pretend to feed the ducks in Green Park while talking out of the sides of their mouths to each other. And Harry Palmer was shown to be very chic by owning a cafetière (T) (857)99). 12.08 Bainfeld. A "Time Season" episode of the sitcom, told in continuous flashbacks, with Jerry, Elaine and George travelling to a wedding in India (S) (T) (5005107).

1.20 Top of the Pope (S) (T) (1721774). 1.50 Joine BBC News 24 (36505671). To 6.55am

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

5.00 Weekand 24 (S) (4973). 9.00 Q Asia (S) (49460). 9.30 Network East – Mega Meia Interviews (S) (37092460). 11.20 See Hearl (S) (1411422). 12.25 Food ond Drink (R) (S) (T) (4620986).

12,85 2.16 IBI(III Whicky Galore (Alexander Mackendrick 1949 UK). A consignment of shipwredged Scotch whisky weshea up on a ration-hit wartime island. See Film of the Day, below (1) (3951525).

Glossy but vapid vereion of HG Wells' ect-il classic, with charmlese teeding man Rod Taylor transported forward to the distant futura. Nice to see that the Millennium Bug doeen't affect time trovel (7) (649880).

6.00

5.00 Whet the Papers 8sy. Mark Lewson gets all eatirical about lest week's newspapers (S) (608426).

9.00 How to Beet the Clock. David Stafford visits verious time-management gurus in Silicon Valley, California; Sait Lake Cily, Uteh; and back here in Britain to see whether they really can change the way people work (T) (4083).

10.00 Clock watch. Wells Cathedral clock (S) (T) (61/828).

befits a director who cut hie teeth on World in Action, Michael Apted to a murder investigation on an Ogata Sloux indian reservation in South Dakota is full of the campalgring epirit. Val Kilmer is the FBI agent with Indian blood whose cultural identity is awoken by the injusticles he discovers (S) (636644).

12.30 World Derts. Semi-final highlighta (S) (7677126).

IIIA Teanege Cevemen (Roger Corman 1958 US). A Cormen quickle which was called by its etar, a young Robert Vaughn, "one of the best worst filme of all time". Gasp et the tacky dinosaura, cheer as vaughn atrugglea with the Monty Pythonesque stutfed deer... (Followed by Weetherview) (3467854). To 2.25em.

BBC2

7.00 Chaplin Clasalcs: The Idia Clasa (1921). Chaplin is mistaken for an arietocret (59373). 7.30 Sunnyelde (1919). Chaplin playe a hendyman in love (46680).

One Men and His Dog (S) (T) (0822608), 4.25 Space 1899 (T) (9976647), 5.15 TOTP2 (S) (7026977),

World Darts. Roy Slubbe finds himsolf stuck in the alternative universe that is Frimley Green. It's the eemi-final of the Embassy world champlunehip. Commontary by Tony Green (S) (361626).

6.80 What Makes Us Tiok. Scientists are apporently close to locating our "body cluck", the component which slowe down and speeds up our perception of time dopending on what we are doing. This documentary in the "Time Season" takes up the atory (S) (T) (278019).

7.30 Irlsh Journeys. Fergal Kanne continues his journey through acuthern ireland by visiting Castiwderg, where he meots Derck Hussey, an Orengeman and Assembly member whose best friend wes killed by the IRA (287).

910 EHIDINE Century Road. Storles from various Century Roads ecross Britain, built and named at the turn of the century. See Documentary of the Day, below (S) (T) (772809).

ws; Weether; Lottery Result (599606)

5 IdIM Dirty Harry (Don Siegal 1971 US). Taut, sxciling and very right-wing police thrilisr with one-man If of a hippy peycho who is holding the city of San sco to ransom. The officer's unorthodox methode endear him to his aupariors, but the force – d by liberal values – has no choice but to send (1) (624444).

Every Which Way But Loose (James 1978 US). Truckere, orang-utane and bars-knuckle in this blue-collar comedy dreme aterring Clint and Sondra Locke (859/4132).

eywetch Nighte (S) (8877858), 3.05 Box Office merica (R) (97497782), 3.30 World Foolball (53107), .00 CD UK (S) (2862497), 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (597518), 5.30 News (33880), To Barn.

ITN News; Sports Results; Weather (1) (12:19:151).

Disnay black comedy which might actually trighten smaller children (and won't much amuse the older onea). Three 17th-century witches from Salem (Bette Midler, Sarah Josaica Parker and Kathy Najimy) are accidentally brought back to life in modern-day America when some children break the spell which has confined their spirits for 300 years (S) (T) (6/864170).

Blind Data. Cita Black brings together unlikely couples (S) (T) (2825).

11.10 The Bast of Stanley Sexter (R) (S) (T) (986921).

mals (R) (497t120). Animal Alphabet

ITEM The Plank (Eric Sykea 1967 UK), Fondly remembered ellent comedy, with Tommy Cooper and Eric Sykea as two workmen trying to transport a wooden plank through London. With Jimmy Edwards

4.10 History Hunters. Three teams of ameteur historiens are geared up by Tony Robinson to find out what they can about Burton Abbey in Staffordshire (T) (2772189).

2.30 Sportsweek on 5. To the sound of the bottom of a barrel being scraped, Gall McKenna presente Dutch tootball action and log-hockey highlights (S) (4859975).

3.30 Sunaet Baech Omnibus. All the week's madness, including Francesca's plans to steal that necklace (R) (S) (T) (49305847).

5.55 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (493318).

Channel 4 Reoling from Bandown Park and Leopardstown. Featuring the 145 and 220 from Leopardstown, and the 200, 230, 3.05 and 3.40pm from Sandown Park (82192444).

7.00 Right to Reply. Roger Bollon filters viewers complaints (T) (1286).

7.30

9.00 [3][M] Piey Dirty (André De Toth 1888 UK). Melvyn Bragg had a hand in the script of thie British Dirty Doze rip-off, with ceptain Michael Caine given the task of

Carlton

Channel

hannel 5

THE WEEKEND REVIEW
The Independent 9 Junuary 1999

90 GMTV (8888002). **9.28** SMTV Live (56450354). **11.30** CD UK (27880). **12.30** The Food Factory (68608). **1.00** ITN News; Weather (94766248). **1.08** London Weekend Today (T) (94790847). **1.10** On the Ball (T) (82761712).

74: Medelina (R) (2135808), **7.28** T4: Animal Alphabet (7944668), **7.30** T4: Pippi Longetocking (R) (40246), **8.00** T4: Transworld Sport (R) (4199), **9.00** Morning Line (S) (44625), **10.00** Inside Rugby with Thierry Lacroix (62460), **11.00** Gezzetta Football Italia (R) (T) (59896), **12.00** Board Stupid (21064), **12.30** High 5 (56246), **1.00** The Vibe (53712).

B.00 Dappledown Farm (R) (74010<u>52)</u>, **6,30** Havekazoo (R) (S) (7842198), **7.00** 5 News and Sport (R) (9190460). **7.30** Milkehekel (S) (4956903), **7.35** Wirmzle's House (R) (9821373), **8.00** Lassle (S) (1261064), **5.30** Wishborne (R) (S) (1260335), **9.00** Land of the Lost (R) (1284915), **9.30** Kablami (R) (S) (9038084), **10.00** The incredible Hulk (917518), **11.00** The Papsi Chart (R) (S) (T) (4772422), **11.30** Footly Shortz (S) (32682893), **11.40** Bewerly Hills, **90210** (R) (S) (T) (3900906), **12.35** Singled Out (R) (S) (15857986), **1.05** USA High (R) (18313354), **1.35** RAD (27236536), **1.50** 5 News (S) (T) (308222248), **2.00** Blast (S) (BASNISH)

1.40 [ATTM] Up Periscope (Gordon Douglae 1959 US).
Undarwater damolition expert James Gamar is שיייט נט אוז אחופרוכמח deatroyer in the Pacific in this benseful war drama populated with aedistic Imandere and daalardly Japanese. Edmond O'Brien Alan Haia Jr co-star (29788844). Affic in this

5.05 Brookside Omnibus. All the week's grief, as Ketle and Rachel convince themselves they know the identity of the raplet. And Jacqui is shocked when she finds out about Ron and Bev (R) (S) (T) (8266625).

5.30 Channel 4 News Waether. Presented by Jon Snow and including all Saturday's sporting news (16t).

6.00 Hercuise - the Legandery Journeys. Our mythical hero finds himself in France at the time of the revolution. Don't ask (S) (6982489).

Pereonal Sarvicae. Mobile halrdreaser Karen, from Brighton and her eventide existence as a budding rocker (335).

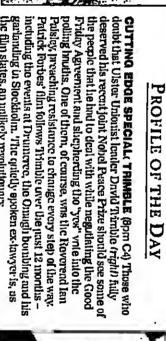
7.45 5 Newe and Sport (S) (T) (5335267).

5.00 [9] [0] Cutting Edge Speciel - Trimble.
Documentary which followed Northern reland's Nobel
Prize-winning First Minister over the past eventful year. See
Profile of the Day, below (9915).

10.40 Filtr Octioned (John Flynn 1979 US). Above-per vigilentism, with Jen Michael Vincent as the merchant seamen outsider who single-handedly quelle a violent New York street gang. A good supporting cast of then unknowns included Danny Aleilo (71641806).

12.40 1311/1 I Lova You, Alica B Tokiael (Hy Averback 1966 US). Middle-aged lewyer Peter Sellers eata some hash cookies and drops out in this embarraseing flower power "satire" scripted by Paul Mazursky (9382010). 2.30 ITIM Raw Edge (John Sherwood 1958 US), Lurid B-movie about ranchers plotting to kill their boss (24963565), To 3.45am.

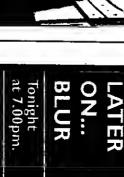
TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GILBERT



FILM OF THE DAY

whisky GALOREI (12.55pm BBC2. right) Due of the sharpest of the Ealing comedies, scripted by Comptan Mackenzie and Angus MacPhall from Mackenzie's novel, and directed by that gimlel-eyed genius of the British chema, Alexander Mackendrick. The Island of Barra stands in for the fictional wartime Elchridean Island of Todday, the inhabitants of which are parched efter their ration of whisky runs out of which the parched efter their still to the same of Scotch on



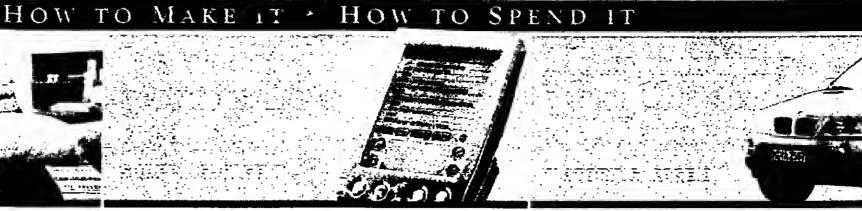


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9.00 LillVil Pante in the Sklesi (Paul Ziller 1998 US). A sort of straight version of Alrolanel, right down to the exclamation mark. Former Charlie's Angel Kate Jackson

5.05 Xena - Warrlor Princese. Dur butch werder princesals werned by Poseldon to stay out of his fight with Ulysses, the king of theca. Not a series for the more aensitive lovers of serious Greek mythology, needless to say (5) (375/783).



Make euros work for you

Many banks are already offering euro products, but will customers use them? By Rachel Fixsen

fused, here's a reminder: the UK has opted out of the European single currency the pound is still the pound. Most of us knew that anyway, but with every highstreet bank in Britain offering some sort of euro product, from current accounts to mortgages. you could be forgiven for thinking this country had adopted the euro too.

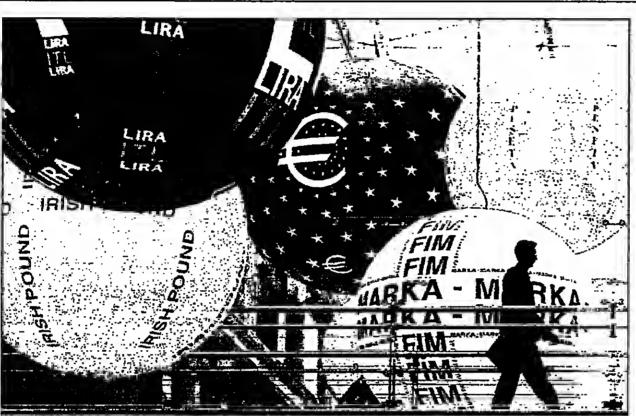
Barclays and NatWest say they are offering personal customers a full range of banking products in the euro - the new currency which came into effect in 11 European countries at the beginning of the year.

Some banks have embraced the euro enthusiastically. launching a raft of new products to test the market, but others are more sceptical, Lloyds TSB, Cater Allen Bank and Citibank are also offering euro current accounts, hut Midland sees limited demand and is only offering euro travellers cheques.

Charges vary. There is no charge for the NatWest, Barclays or Citibank accounts, but both have high minimum balances - 3,000 and 2,000 euros respectively. Citibank charges 15 euros a month if the balance

Most of the accounts pay interest, but only at a very low level. Citibank pays tiered interest, from a quarter per cent a broader section of the public." up to 1 per cent for balances

over 59.000 euros. Who needs a euro current account? Typically, these acinternationally orientated customers, says Citibank's Amanda Iremonger. Someone who travels regularly to the rest of Europe, or somebody who ties to other European coun-



Giant balloons, one for each currency taking part, mark the start of the euro in Paris Jack Dabaghian/Reuters

tries might be tempted to open an account. Citibank bas already received a lot of customer interest in the euro current account. "As the euro becomes more a part of peoples' lives, it will become more applicable to

says Ms Iremonger. For the vast majority of people in the UK, though, euro ac-counts will be irrelevant. "We counts would have an appeal for don't see there's much need for our personal customers to open euro accounts," says Joanne Davis, a NatWest spokeswoman. Less than 5,000 personal euro current accounts owns property or has personal have been opened, which rep-

of NatWest's customer base. Lloyds TSB says euro current accounts have only been opened by customers who al-

erunner to the euro - or a

European foreign currency. Most people in the UK will not have to change their banking arrangements at all. The euro is just another foreign currency. Existing debit and credit cards can generally be used in continental Europe to shop in euros, just as they were used to huy marks and francs.

Euro-denominated travellers cheques should be more widely used than euro acresents less than 0.1 per cent counts. They are heing offered

by all the banks, although travellers cheques will also be available in the original European currencies. Someone going on the appeal. Through its offshore ready held accounts in ecu-the holiday to France may choose to take travellers cheques in francs. But if the journey is minimum opening balance of likely to involve more than one European country, euro trav-ellers cheques would be better.

as they can be cashed in any of the 11 participating countries. Whether all shops and restaurants in Euroland will actually accept euro travellers cheques remains to be seen. Midland says it cannot guarantee they will be accepted in all outlets, though banks will certainly accept them.

Since interest rates for the euro are lower than sterling rates; savings accounts have litbranches, Halifax has launched 10,000 euros. Rates are tiered from 2.25 per ceot to 3 per cent for over 250,000 euros. With euro returns so low. Lloyds TSB says there is little point in

offering savings accounts. But lower rates should mean cheaper mortgages. Barclays has already launched a euro mortgage, and Abbey National is due to unveil a similar product next month. Lloyds TSB says it plans to offer a euro

mortgage in the second quarter of this year.

The loan, made against a UK property: is denominated in euros and monthly repayments must be in the new currency. Barclays' euro variable mortgage rate is 4.72 per cent, compared to 7.7 per cent for its sterling rate. On a £100.000 interest-only mortgage, this would mean payments of 5371 a month, compared to £614 on the standard rate.

But providers are quick to warn about the risks involved in taking out any type of foreign currency mortgage, and stipulate that borrowers must have an income in euros. "In the late Eighties when interest rates were high, we did see people looking to borrow in a foreign currency," says Margaret Schwarz, product manager for mortgages at Abbey National. But they were rather badly burned by the depreciation of

sterling," she adds.

If the euro rises sharply against sterling, a euro mort-gage raised against a bouse priced in sterling could even become higher than the value of the property, leaving the borrower with negative equity. Because of this risk. Barclays will only lend up to 65 per cent of the value of the property with its euro mortgage, and Abbey Nato-value limit. "No one knows how stable the euro will be," says Mike Thompson, Barclays

euro manager People working for multinational companies are most likely to take out euro mortgages, says Margaret Schwarz. "We have already had quite a surprising response," she adds.

Lloyds TSB euro helpline: 0845 3000138; Barclays euro helpline: 0845 60066

BARGAIN HUNTER



Property of the week Rooms with a view of the Downs

IT HASN'T been touched for about 20 years and needs new plumbing, wiring, kitchen and a bathroom -but if The Elms, a large detached Victorian house in Pulborough, West Sussex, was renovated, it could be worth another £75,000. The five-bedroom red-brick house overlooking the South Downs retains original features such as fireplaces, picture rails and sash windows. There's also a huilding in the garden which was used as a nursery school. With outdoor swimming pool, it's for sale at £275,000 through Guy Leonard. For details ring 01798 874033.

ROSALIND RUSSELL

Car of the week Reports of its death were much exaggerated

IF YOU thought the Austin Maestro was dead, it has just been resting - in crates. Rover tried to huild them in Bulgaria four years ago, but the deal went bad and 138 vans and 483 cars came back to Blighty, in crates. Trans European Trading (01531 636252) bought them and rebuilt them. Transportation at its most basic. Not pretty, hut easy and cheap to own, £3,995 as a left-hand drive, £4,995 cooverted. However, an ad by David Hill Associates offered a left-hand one for just £2,950. Hurry while stocks last. Call 01933 413863.

JAMES RUPPERT

Deal of the week A good time to become a card carrier

EVERY TIME you think you have come up with a definitive bargain, someone comes up with a better deal - especially for those with a massive Christmas financial headache. Anyone taking out a Co-operative Bank Advantage or Advantage Gold Visa card will pay just 5.9 per cent on outstanding balances until July 1999. Thereafter, the rate reverts to a standard 13.8 per cent variable rate. The introductory deal includes debt transferred from other issuers, plus new purchases. Both cards have no annual fee. Any snags? Well, there's no interest-free period at all. Call 0800 126000.

NIC CICUTTI

Basic information comes at a price you may not like

Phone and fax info lines can be a lot more expensive than you expect. By Paul Slade

HOW MUCH would you pay for a fax telling you about the best mortgage deals or bank accounts? If you are not careful, it could be more than you think.

Telephone watchdogs have just fined a Crewe company, Bond Associates, £5,000 for failing to teli people its phone service, selling bank accounts and mortgages, cost callers £1.50 a minute. Neither the company's leaflets, nor the staff who callers reached, made it clear just bow much the calls cost.

The fine was levied by Icstis. the body responsible for policing premium-rate fax and telephone services. Icstis has closed down the line, barred Bond Associates from operating premium-rate services for one year and alerted the police.

Rob Dwight, an Icstis spokesman, says that Bond Associates' main breach was "complete lack of pricing information". But Bond Associates also broke the rules by promoting the bank account service to individuals as well as companies. Mr Dwight says: Their permission certificate was supposed to be for a business line. But all the complaints we had were from private individuals. Obviously, the service was inappropriately promoted as well."

The £5,000 fine was imposed just before Christmas, and stis fine against Bond Associ- cancellations was a premium-



Associates declined to comment on the fines when contacted by The Independent.

Late last year, Icstis fined Nationwide List Brokers £500 for a fax service giving details of special offers from suppliers such as "leading banks, credit card companies, insurance companies, loan and financial companies". Recipients were told they would receive a fax every evening unless they faxed back a note asking to be taken off the list.

The faxes advertised were comes on top of another £750 Ie- free. But the number given for

ates made earlier in 1998. Bond rate number, charging users £1.50 a minute. Unlike Bond Associates, Nationwide List Brokers' promotional material does carry a footnote pointing out the cost of the call.

Eight consumers in the Midlands complained about receiving the faxes. Icstis found Nationwide List Brokers was operating outside the terms of its permission certificate by ding out unsolicited faxes. Martin Fisher, Nationwide

the £500 fine - which they bave paid, by the way - all their future promotional material for the number they have been given permission to operate at £1.50 a minute has to be cleared Both Bond Associates and

Nationwide List Brokers used telephone numbers with an 08971 prefix, BT's code for lines costing £1.50 a minute. Other prefixes from rival operators, List Brokers' proprietor, says which carry the same charge, include the following: 09910 this service is no longer on offer, and that the promotional faxes (Torch), 03313 and 03314 (Vodafone), 09919 (Cable & Wireless) were sent out by an employee who has since been dismissed.

Mr Dwight says: "As well as

Some premium rate lines known as "fax-back" services, ask customers to dial a number on their own fax machine which will feed out the printed information promised. But it is you who pay for transmission of the

faxes you order. In 1997, Icstis fined a company called Telecom Express £2,500 for a fax-back service giving details of repossessed properties in their own area, which were often hopelessly out of date. The service charged callers £1.50 a minute, and lists regularly took more than 15 minutes to come through, cre-

ating a total charge of £22.50. Mr Dwight says that people getting unwelcome faxes promoting services like these should write to the company responsible and ask to be removed from their lists: "If they are still receiving faxes from the company after a two to three week period, then we may take it up as a breach of our code."

You can also cootact the Telephone Preference Service or the Fax Preference Service. Their job is to circulate the details of people who want to be removed from their members lists, but you may have to be persistent to get your own details deleted:

Icstis complaints: 0800 500212; Telephone Preference Service: 0800 398893; Fax Preference Service: 0541 554555

Thought for the day

A prosperous new year? Resolve to take financial advice.

An IFA can help you with advice on anything from getting a better mortgage to reducing your tax hill. Or, of course, with finding which of the hundreds of pensions or peps might be right for you. So if you're resolved to sort out your finances in 1999, send for our information pack today. And we'll pop it in the post. Cheers.

0117 971 1177

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PERSONAL FINANCE

I HAVE seen this in dozens of films.

Little guy takes on big guy. Big huy batters little guy. "Stay down or you'll get hurt bad," he warns. Little guy gets up and gets battered again. This goes on until either the little guy succeeds (the big guy is very tired) or wins respect for not giving in.

The above scene came to me this week after reading that Michael Hardern, the former butler and one-trackminded campaigner for building societies to demutualise, is to relaunch a campaign to put a resolution - identical to the one narrowly defeated by Nationwide members in July - to this effect on the agenda at seven societies.

Portman, Britannia, Leeds & Holbeck, Skipton, Chelsea and Yorkshire are studying his proposals. Coventry appears to bave escaped - Mr Hardern couldn't raise enough signatures.

His oew intervention follows the decision by another campaigner, Stephen Major - a plumber from Lisburn, County Antrim - to trigger a vote among Bradford & Bingley members on the same subject in April.

It would be easy to suggest that because Nationwide rejected demutualisation, Bradford & Bingley will do so. But the Nationwide carpetbaggers will be out in even greater numbers at Bradford & Bingley. Its membership, after all, has doubled since 1995, and it is a fair bet that not all are

loyal defenders of building

As it happens, I am a member. I joined to get the best rates available on a particular account, and it has consistently outperformed similar accounts available from the high street banks. In common with Bradford & Bingley borrowers, I have done well with mutuality.

I will be voting against Mr Major in April. What not so much that he and

Sept. 30.14.07 (20%)

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im is an engineer work-ing in the oil industry. His

basic annual salary is

£19.600, though he is al-

most guaranteed to dou-

ble this when working

offshore. Linda is a manager working

for her local health authority. She

their pension provision may be lack-

ing. Tim has never been in a company

pension scheme and made only

modest contributions to personal pen-

sions until 1994, Linda has accrued

only six years on pensionable service

within the NHS Superannuation

Scheme. She has been contributing £35

Much of their spare income has been spent on privately educating their daughters, Charlotte, 20, and Ali-

son, 18. Charlotte is in her second year

at university and is being financially

supported by her parents. Alison is

having a year out before starting a col-

The adviser: Julian Crooks, financial

planner at Murray Borrill & Partners.

independent financial advisers and

members of the IFA Network: Moor-

gate House, 23 Moorgate Road, Rotherham S60 2EN (01709 371675)

The advice: Both Tim and Linda need

to boost their pension entitlements.

Tim can expect a pension of around

20 per cent of his earnings in real

terms at age 60; Linda around 25 per

cent. Retirement at 55 would reduce

their pensions to 10 per cent and 15 per

Both Tim and Linda would like to

be able to consider the option of re-

tirement from the age of 55 onwards.

They have little hope of achieving this

objective. Tim does have the flexibil-

ity of part-time working. Similarly,

Linda foresees the same possibility for

herself. This idea makes more sense.

contributions. He is currently paying

around £6,000 a year into pensions but

could pay just over £10.000. On an on-

going basis Tim can increase his pen-

sion contributions by only £365 or so

a month. As he will receive income tax

relief automatically at 23 per cent, this

Secondly, he should consider pay-

ing a single contribution to use un

pensions relief unused from previous

used relief starting with the earliest

will in fact cost him only £281.

Tim can improve his pension in two

cent respectively.

lege course in September.

a month to an AVC since 1989.

Both Tim and Linda are aware that

earns £24,000 a year.

NIC CICUTTI

This is about letting a vital part of our savings industry operate unhindered

Mr Hardern are exercising their right to put the issue to the test, but the ease with which they can do so.

It only takes 50 members to put an issue on the agenda or to stand for election to a mutual's board, which may seem democratic - until you realise that Hardern and co can disrupt a society for months.

When "ballotitis" strikes, a society has to close new accounts for fear of letting in more carpetbaggers, diverting the energies of staff and costing millions of pounds in lost returns.

The Treasury refuses to intervene, arguing that it is not there to protect societies against the will of their members. But this is about more than simply defending "democracy": it is about allowing a vitally important arm of the UK's savings and mortgages movement to operate unhindered by constant Interruption and to allow bonest competition to continue between

societies and banks. All it would take is to raise to 500 the number of members needed. Even a 100 minimum might prevent the frivolous Mr Hardern from forcing societies like Leeds & Holbeck to demutualise thow would such a titchy

outfit survive as a bank?). If defeated in April, I doesn't get up again.

Time to put yourself first

FINANCIAL MAKEOVER

NAMES TIM AND LINDA MAUDSLEY AGES 48 AND 50 OCCUPATIONS ENGINEER AND NHS MANAGER



Tim and Linda Maudsley are acutely aware of the need to boost their pensions

be soaked up by his pension contri- this, whatever they do set aside should butions. He could elect for part of his be split 75:25 in favour of Tim. who is contributions made this year to be carried back to the last tax year, This could wipe out some tax at 40 per cent

could result in a refund of income tax. Tim and Linda have around £21,000 on instant access. This should be reduced to perhaps £4,000-£5,000 for short-term emergencies. The balance should be directed to Tim's pension.

which has already been paid and

ways. Firstly, he can maximise his As an employee, his single contribution would be automatically grossed up from £16,000 to almost £21,000, attracting tax relief at 23 per cent. His pension could be improved by around 90 per cent through this measure and by beginning additional monthly contributions.

Linda's contributions to the National Health Service Superannuation Scheme leave her able to contribute years. He can go back up to six pre- an extra £145 a month gross, or £112 vious years and carry lorward the un- a month after tax relief.

The total extra monthly per year. In the current tax year, most of contributions between them come to will be the most appropriate. Tim's 40 per cent income tax rate will almost £400. If they cannot afford

proportionately more under-funded than Linda.

I would recommend that Tim consider with-profit pension plans offered by Standard Life and CGU and

The Skandia MultiPep management is seen as one of the best. Careful fund selection is essential, however

unit-linked plans offered by Professional Life. Linda has the option of buying added years through ber pension scheme or contributing to a Free Standing AVC. She will probably find that increasing ber Equitable Life AVC

Tim and Linda have around £26,000

in a range of PEPs, plus a Scottisb Widows with-profits bond. The relative security of the Scottish Widows bond and Scottish Widows Safety Plus PEPs (an equity-linked PEP that uses options to ensure a lock-in of unit prices once the stock market reaches certain levels) is offset by the high-

er-risk Skandia MultiPep. This PEP carries higher charges than most owing to double-charging. In addition to Skandia's own charges, the funds managed by the underlying fund managers bear their own costs. For Tim, the desired outcome is to receive returns that outweigh the effect of higher charges. The Skandia MultiPep boasts some of the most respected fund management groups. But careful fund selection is essential.

The Skandia PEP is the highest-risk part of their portfolio. It is short in overseas exposure. I would recommend links to the Fidelity North America and Gartmore European Selected Opportunities rather than the smaller UK companies' links to Schroder and a saving of nearly 30 per cent of Tim's

Charlotte's tuition fees are currently paid by her LEA. Her parents are helping with her living costs. The position for Alison will be slightly different. Unless she is treated as a "gap-year" student under the Goverument's new scheme, she will be expected to pay up to £1,000 annually towards her tuition fees.

The financial impact on Tim and Linda will be most severe from September 1999 to July 2000 when they will be supporting both Charlotte, in her last year, and Alison, in her first. LEAs can award maintenance

grants to students but assess parental incomes. From next year there could be scope for seeking LEA assistance since there will be two children to maintain and "residual income" could reduce significantly because pension contributions are an allowable deduction from gross income.

If Tim and Linda do find themselves short they ought to consider using monies from their bond and/or PEPs rather than sacrifice pension contrihutions which are fulfilling a greater long term need. Tax is a major consideration with the bond. They need to ascertain just how much can be withdrawn without incurring a higherrate income tax liability.

Tim and Linda are also relatively exposed in the event of a long-term or critical illness. Linda would receive six months' full pay followed by six months' half-pay. Tim, on the other hand, is entitled to three months' full pay, with further payments at the company's discretion.

Even if Tim had reached age 50 it would not be a good idea to retire. He would have to look to accumulated capital to top up incapacity benefit for which he may qualify from the state.

An alternative is to consider income protection insurance. This would help to protect the medium-term investments and Tim's pension. If there is no long-term illness income protection insurance from his employer, Tim could consider a policy which defers benefits until 52 weeks of illness. Norwich Union would charge £73 a month for a tax-free monthly indexlinked benefit of £1,000.

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Tim and Linda also need to review their wills. They have life policies with Allied Dunbar (£100,000 for Tim. £50,000 for Linda) which are not written in trust and could be subject to inheritance tax. They should consider making the policies subject to appropriate trusts. Incidentally, cuts in life assurance rates mean that they could get replacement policies at premium and 20 per cent of Linda's.

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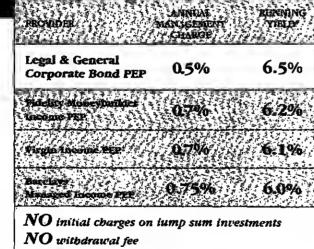
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Up the ante by slinging out the FTSE failures

A new tracker system claims to give

better returns. By **Clifford German**

THE HOLY Grail for investors is a system which will auto- ing outperformed small commatically outperform the average and will do so without too much effort or risk. For at least the last 70 years, since Foreign & Colonial set up the first investment trust to pool investors funds and use professional managers to outperform the market, the search for such a system has become increas-

ingly complex and urgent. Some investors swear by relatively simple methods, such as studying charts of the rise and fall of shares and indices. They aim to identify "trend lines" and turning points, to identify shares which are over or under valued. Others use banks of computers to crunch numbers and turn masses of data into conclusive evidence.

Professional stock-pickers have their own pet systems, such as George Soros and our own Jim Slater, whose Zulu Principle is based on identifying "value" in shares. Some investment managers

invest only in high-technology stocks or new issues, or look for shares which have reached rock bottom, while tip-sheets the grounds that the upside is bigger than the downside. But there is ample evidence

that after paying the fund managers' charges, the average managed fined, more often than not, under-performed the markets it was supposed to beat.

This led to the expansion of 'tracker funds", which are designed to follow the average performance of the market they invested in, allowing them to dispense with expensive managers and cut charges to as low as 0.5 per cent.

Tracker funds run by the likes of Virgin Direct, Legal & General and HSBC have been

helped by big companies hav-

pany shares. Active fund managers argue that, in falling markets, the freedom to sell shares and keep the money in cash would allow them to outperform trackers. That theory has not really been properly tested.

But there are obvious disadvantages in having to hold every share in the FTSE 100, even though some will perform a lot better than others. The system comes from Hargreaves Lansdown, the Bristolbased broker and investment manager, which is offering an Active Tracker PEP intended to add common sense to the virtues of a tracker fund.

The theory is simple. A tracker fund will outperform the average managed fund, but some of the top 100 shares will perform better than others, because not all are equally well managed or in growth sectors. Anyone who can ditch the obvious duds will have a portfolio to outperform the index.

During 1998 the system kept Kingfisher but excluded Marks & Spencer, kept Scottish Power but excluded National Power kept Tesco hut excluded Safeway from the portfolio. The company doesn't claim to have got everything right, but says its "active tracker" outperformed the index by 5 per cent in 1998.

Exactly bow it operates is a professional secret, but Hargreaves Lansdown has now decided to market it to investors and see if it can be done again in 1999. The minimum investment is £2,500, the initial charge is 3 per cent and the annual management fee is 1 per cent. Good luck!

Hargreaves Lansdown:

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What you need to know about the new pensions. By Nic Cicutti



indy rhetoric, or a genuine boost to millions of poorer people? When the Government announced its plans for a new system of stakeholder pensions recently, opinion on their likely effectiveness was mixed. Here, we explain some of the most important aspects of the proposals.

What kind of a system do we have at the moment?

It consists of a hotchpotch of overlapping types of provision. There is the state pension; there is the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme (Serps), which is linked to earnings: there are company pension schemes and there are private ones. Someone could quite easily end up with a slice of pension from each of these sources. Meanwhile, the value of a combined state pension and Serps is expected to fall.

Why was change needed?

All political parties say that reform is necessary. The current system is in a mess. pared to those in work, is rising fast and will continue to do so for the next 30-40 years. The Government argues that it cannot afford the rising cost of state pensions.

While the value of pensions paid nn retirement is expected to grow in line with earnings, this will not be shared equally; the richest fifth of pensioners will grab a *agger slice. Poorer pensioners will therefore slip even further behind.

So what is the Government planning to do?

In essence, it will improve retirement incomes for the worst off, those earning below £9,000 a year, while using a mixture of financial incentives and coercion to "persuade" the rest of us to go private.

How will this happen?

In place of the current system, whereby from April a single pensioner receives £66.75 a week and couples get £106.70 basic pension, they will receive Minimum Income Guarantees of £75 a week and £119 a week respectively. At the same time, Serps, which was supposed to underpin the basic pension when it was launched in 1978, will be closed to new entrants, in favour of a new State Second Pension (SSP).

What will the SSP be like?

The SSP will become a flat-rate scheme after five years. In return for National Insurance cootributions, those earning £3,300-£9,000 a year will receive a top-up to their basic pension of £50 a week. Carers at bome, and the disabled, will receive credits as if they had earnings of £9,000.

While the new SSP will assist those earning below £9,000, the Government hopes to reduce its attractiveness for those earning between £9,000 and £18,500.

Basically, by offering National Insurance rebates to those who opt out of the SSP (the old Serpsi. Because it will be a flat rate, the benefits of staying in the second-tier pension will taper off to very little the more

money you earn. It will make more sense for people to belong to an employer's occupational pension scheme, as almost 6 million do already. These will receive tax rebates, as at present. Or, people will be able to take out a stakeholder pension.

Ah, stakeholder pensions, Labour's "big idea". How will they work? The Government says there are about 5 million people earning £9,000-£20,000 a year who do not save for retirement. They will receive generous rebates if they put money

into a new stakebolder pension. Up to £3,600 a year (tax-free) can go into a stakeholder pension, which can be offered by any organisation, including trade unions, financial services companies and employers. Scheme members will be able to make contributions for up to five years after they stop working - a boost to those,

mostly women, who take career breaks. Employers will be required to provide stakeholder pension schemes for their staff, although they don't have to make contributions into one. They will also be allowed to join together, and set up similar schemes based on occupations and trades. But they will have to consult with staff as to which provider to choose.

Why will stakeholder schemes be better than occupational schemes? Employers will still be able to offer occupational schemes - and if they do, they don't have to offer a stakeholder pension. Occupational schemes will be better for

many employees - particularly those whose contributions are likely to be above £3,600, the maximum payable into a stakeholder scheme. For those likely to pay in below this threshold, and part-time or temporary workers, stakeholder schemes may

be better - as long as employers contribute. The Government suggests that in such cases, employers may want to have a twotier system, affering both schemes side by side. Depending on your earnings, it will make sense to belong to one or the other.

Will they be better than personal

Here, the Government argues that stakeholder schemes will be vastly superior. In common with personal pensions, they will

be money-purchase arrangements. They will be simple to understand and subject to tight regulatory cootrols - much cheaper than existing personal pension contracts - and you won't have to pay for "advice" when taking one out.

Stakeholder schemes ought to replace personal pensions for most people earnearning more, the picture changes.

Mainly because of the £3,600 cap on contributions. The more you earn, the more you need to pay to ensure a proportional income in retirement. Moreover, as you become older, the proportion of income you ought to place in a pension scheme grows. Personal pensions, if cheap, will still offer good value.

So what should I do now?

The Government's proposals are still at the consultation stage. Even so, there's no sense in waiting until stakeholder pensions are introduced: that will take at least a couple of years, and you need to save now.

However, it is highly likely that you will want to transfer your personal pension into a stakeholder one, so you need to find one where the up-front costs are virtually negligible. More on this at a later date.

What if I already have a personal pension?

In some cases, the way charges have already been levied on your contract may not make it worthwhile to transfer. We will discuss this in more detail at a later stage.

EUROPE HAS a new currency but not one you can actually touch. The euro is but a virtual currency for the next two years, until the notes and coins actually come into circulation. However, anybody who is used to handling their finances through the Internet is unlikely to be dismayed at the prospect of dealing with the virtual reality of the euro. The nuestion is whether you really need to.

For all practical purposes, unless you have significant income or outgoings in euros, you are not likely to need a euro bank account. However, if vou are a frequent traveller in Europe or you own a holiday home on the Continent then you are probably going to be joining in the single currency sooner than the rest of us.

If you do decide you need a euro account, the new Citibank Euro Account launched in December, may fit the bill. Through its

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ROBIN AMLÔT

website, the bank is now offering customers the option of online cure current accounts and euro savings accounts. Current account customers get a Visa Delta card. Ciubank is offering to clear cheques and drafts drawn in any EMU-participating country free of charge. This month, the bank is adding euro bankers drafts and euro

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interest rates in return for potice of withdrawals.

Chibank also has an EMU bulletin service on its global website which offers a pan-European perspective. It includes a euro calculator and some euro price comparisons and a list of FAQs - frequently asked questions. If you are

locking for greater depth

and more general information about the new single currency, check out EmuNet. The site offers a mix of daily news, official documents, practical information, commentary and analysis. It is not selling anything, other than the supposed benefits of the

Of course, for the seriously rich, a Swiss bank is still the obvious port of call. Switzerland may not be part of the euro zone, but geographically it sits at the heart of what's already being called Euroland and that's also where UBS claims to be. It is in fact Europe's largest banking

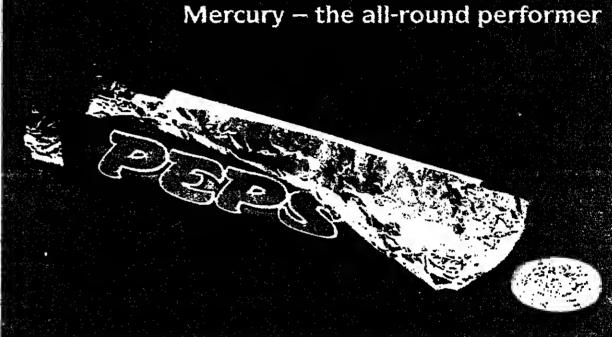
group and offers detailed euro commentary for well-

heeled private clients. If you are not feeling the financial pinch after the festivities, Shelter (the charity for homeless people) is now able to receive donations over the Internet. The Charities Aid Foundation and MM Group are piloting a scheme enabling spontaneous and tax-effective donations to be made using a single, secure charity website. Secure donations to Shelter can be made by credit card and the CAF CharityCard for taxffective giving.

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I FEEL spoilt for choice this week. Should I reflect on the launch of the new European currency or the return of "irrational exuberance" to stockmarkets? Perhaps I had better deal with both.

The stockmarket generally rises in the first weeks of the new year. Heaven knows why. In December, a buoyant market is put down to the "Santa Claus" effect, which, in reality, is fund managers carrying out housekeeping before the

January is meant to be more considered, but markets tend to rise on managers position themselves for the year ahead. The surge this week was attributed to US managers cutting back the cash piles built up during

Did I hear someone mention horses, stable doors and bolts? It feels that way. What is more, technology stocks are again sucking in cash. The price/earnings multiple on the Dow is now close to 40, and no thinking fund manager with a sense of history can put their hand on their heart and say this does not leave the market highly vulnerable. If it goes on like this, when the correction comes, it will be swift and dramatic.

At least the euro got off to a cracking start. There must be a few who wonder why the Square Mile put in so much effort, given that we elected to stay on the sidelines. The reality is that the euro is as much a threat as an opportunity. London dominates foreign exchange trading, and could suffer declining volumes as a result of fewer transactions in the base European currencies that will be subsumed into the euro.

Make no mistake, the euro will make a difference. It will aid the competitive edge of European companies. More important, it will level the playing field for examining the differences between shares in the same industry.

There is an argument



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The reality is that the euro is as much a threat as an opportunity

> for investing in Europe on the basis that it is behind the US and UK in the economic cycle. A stronger argument, in my view, is that there will be some catching up to be done if the euro is seen to work, and European companies start to be rated against their US counterparts. The demand for European shares - and for European funds could be strong.

> This pre-supposes that the single currency works, which is not guaranteed. We did not stay out just to be bloody minded, and it is too easy to be lulled by the euphoria of a successful launch into believing that all the ducks will swim neatly into a row. Europe is not a single economic entity yet, and taxation. cultural and bureaucratic differences may yet throw strains upon the system.

> However, there is much money and prestige riding upon the successful delivery of EMU. If it does all go according to plan, then we will not be talking about Europe as a part of the geographic asset diversification of a portfolio. As Europeans living in Europe, we will be investing in European shares, perhaps buying European theme funds to gain exposure to particular industries. Investors who want to be ahead of the game should think about starting now.

> Brian Tora is chairman of the Greig Middleton investment strategy committee

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There'll be no such thing as societies

Bad news: the building society carpetbaggers are back. By Andrew Verity

THE FUTURE of Britain's remaining building societies was once again thrown into uncer tainty this week when it emerged that carpetbaggers had succeeded in forcing seven societies to consider turnin themselves into banks.

Eight of Britain's building societies were sent unwelcom New Year's resolutions, which may have to be taken seriously by the end of April when they will be holding their annua general meetings. The resolutions, put forward

by two carpetbaggers and supported in each case by 50 members of the society, propose that their boards take steps towards converting to plc status and distributing shares to soc iety members. Behind seven of these reso

lutions is a familiar figure: Michael Hardern, former butler, self-appointed "carpetbagger-in-chief", and the man who was twice defeated in at-tempts to be elected a director of the country's biggest building society, Nationwide.

This year, Mr Hardern is targeting Yorkshire, Portman. Leeds & Holbeck, Chelsea, Skipton, Coventry and Britannia building societies. (Peter Mandelson, the former trade secretary who resigned amid questions about whether he told the full truth in his application for a mortgage with Britannia, could be a beneficiary if

shares are distributed.) In each case, Mr Hardern has attempted to persuade at least 50 members of each society to support his resolution, and also his election to the board as a director. It is already known that he has failed to get enough support at one society, the Coveniry, but he is likely to have succeeded at others.

Stephen Major, a plumber working in Lisburn, County Antrim, has gained the support

Building Society	Members	Status	Carpetbagging defence
Bradford & Bingley	3 million	Facing vote on April 26	Closed to neurocounts
Portman	1.25 million	Testing validity of conversion proposal	Closed to new accounts
Britannia	1.5 million	Testing validity of conversion proposal	New merobers assign windfall right co.chartor
Yorkshire	1 million	Testing validity of conversion proposal	New members assign windfall right to charity
Coventry	700.000	Proposal rejected: not enough , support	New members assign windfall right to charty.
Cheisea	400,000	Testing validity of conversion proposal	Minimum opening balance of £1,00 Branches can halt openings
Skipton	350,000	lesting validity of conversion proposal	Minimum balance of £2,000
Leeds & Holbeck	350,000	Testing validity of conversion proposal	Minimum balance of £1,000

BUILDING SOCIETIES UNDER SIEGE

of 70 members of the Bradford & Bingley. He is thought to have been in contact with Mr Hardern through his website, www.carpetbagger.com, which is also how most of the nominations were obtained.

His resolution is almost identical to Mr Hardern's and his application was submitted at the same time. "The Internet means the flame of Athenian democracy can be rekindled and ignited here in the UK," says Mr Hardern. Christopher Rodrigues, chief

executive of Bradford & Bingley, has, in public at least, been unambivalent in his defence of mutuality. But last week be and the society's board decided to go ahead and hold an election on Mr Major's proposal. To stop carpetbaggers from

speculating, the society has suspended all new openings of savings secounts (though other business continues as usual). Mr Hardern confesses that

he is a self-publicist, and once

fought against the de-mutual-

coupled this year's resolutions with a call for every citizen to become a member of the House of Lords. But the societies have been forced to take him serously. They are now checking the signatures supporting his resolutions for validity. If confirmed, there will prob-

ably be seven societies voting on de-mutualisation by the end of April And, at Bradford & Bingley alone, it will cost £5m to raise awareness of the demutualisation vote. Martin Ritchley, chief exec-

utive of Coventry, said: "The problem we have here is that there are two classes of members: the general members, who want a business connection with the society for years, and those who have joined us as speculators, and are hellbent on trying to bring down not only us, but the whole building society movement."

The societies have already started fighting. Adrian Coles, director-general of the Building

isation of Abbey National He Societies Association, says: "There is no such thing as a free share." Recent interest rate cuts have demonstrated the market leading positions of several building societies: Nationwide on Thursday dropped its standard variable rate to 6.95 per cent, 0.5 per cent lower - or £20 a month on the average £60,000 mortgage - than its converted rivals.

Patricia Hewitt, economic secretary to the Treasury, has already knocked back a call to raise the number of members required to forceavote on conversion ~ currently just 50.

But societies are hoping that they can challenge Mr Hardern's New Year's resolutions in court. A 1974 decision in a legal case, Hinkmott vs Woolwich, ruled that resolutions could not be used to interfere with the running of a society's business. The building societies hope this may be enough to defeat Mr Hardern and his

carpetbaggers' website. See Nic Cicutti, page 2 nost severe from Sept.
July 2000 when they will both Charlotte in he Alison, in her first award maintenance ints but assess parental in next year there could eking LEA assistance ill be two children to residual income "only antly because pension are an allowable de gross income. anda do find themselve ght to consider using heir hond and/or PER

crifice pension contri-are fulfilling a greater d. Tax is a major cos h the bond. They need ust how much can be hout incurring a higher ex liability: nda are also relatively event of a long-term or Linda would receive in pay followed by in pay. Tim. on the other

ther payments at the cretion n had reached age 50 it good idea to retire, He cok to accumulated cap incapacity benefit for qualify from the state Ve is to consider income trance. This would help medium-term invesn's pension II there is iness income protection m his employer Tim □ policy which defers 52 weeks of illness or would charge 173 a and the monthly indexof \$1,000

tda also need to review her have life policies milian (Chuduou) for Tim. andar which are not in and could be subject tax. They should onthe policies subject to assis Incidentally, on time trates mean that replacement policies. ing the per cent of Tint 20 per cent of Lindas

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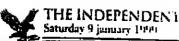
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Want to invest? Read all about it

There are plenty of books that will promise to make you rich quick. But which give genuinely valuable investment advice?

where they can gu to find a simple introduction to the principles of successful investment one that gives an all-round picture of the objectives of managing your money, in language that is both concise and simple

The answer is that it is hard to find such a single-volume bouk. There are now quite a few excellent books about active stock-picking (which, in truth, is just a small subset of the overall subject of investment) and one or two good ones about financial planning, but nothing that gives what, in days long gone, might have been called something like The Intelligent Person's Guide

to Overall Investment Policy. Jim Slater's Investment Mode Easy is a typically clear and concise read, though again with a slant towards his own speciality of stockpicking. Bernice Cohen's books are also well planned and presented. (I must declare an interest in that both

eaders often ask nie these books are published by my own publishers. Orion.: I am also an admirer of Stephen Lofthouse's book, Fixing Your Finances (published by John Wiley), which is nothing if not comprehensive and clear-headed. FT Pitmans also publishes a series of excellent but quite weighty books on many different aspects of investment.

The one book that I think imparts the most wisdom per page is, however, perhaps inevitably, written by an American, Charles Ellis. If you held me up against a wall and asked me which single book has most to teach the average investor about the business of managing money, I would have to say that it is his book on investment policy. The first edition appeared many years ago but has just been revised for the third time and reissued with new material, under the title of Winning

the Loser's Gome. In the best sense of the word, the book is a classic and, while directed primarily at a US audience, will reward anyone in this country just as well. The book is published by McGraw-Hill and can be found in serious bookshops tif you have difficulty finding it, contact the specialist investment publisher. Harriman House, in Petersfield, on 01730 233870, who should be able to find and post you a copy.

What makes Winning the Lower's Game so good? Well, part of it, I think, has to do with the fact that the book was originally written for professional investment managers and their employers, such as pensionfund trustees.

Mr Ellis has been an investment consultant for many years, and this book is a serious attempt to sum up the state of the world's knowledge about the practice of successful investment management for those for whom managing money is a mainstream business.

It therefore feels unimpulsive to promise its readers that reading the book will make them rich quickly something which most publishers



JONATHAN **DAVIES** The key to investment

success is knowing your own personality

seem to assume is essential if you are to sell any kind of book about money to the retail market.

Yet the reality, as Charles Ellis demonstrates superbly, is that most of investment is not about making money quickly. It is about making

and grow your wealth in real terms

over the medium and longer term. The skill and art of it is as much about avoiding making mistakes or irrational or inconsistent decisions as it is about finding that wonder stock or money-making scheme that is going to transform your fortunes overnight, (If your investment stralegy consists of putting all your money on the National Lottery, and doing nothing else, then this book is probably not for you.

The book is not long - it runs to barely 140 pages of text, and is liberally sprinkled with illustrations - but it covers all the main aspects of investment in a marvellously concise and elear-cut way. It includes advice on how to set realistic investment objectives, how to think about risk and when and where to seek advice.

If anyooe has any doubts about the wisdom of choosing an index fund for at least part of their portfolio, I defy them to retain those

sensible decisions that will preserve doubts after reading Ellis's masterly discussion of the real nature of stock-market risk. His demonstration of why investment has become a "loser's game" (a world in which you can prosper only by taking advantage of other people's mistakes, not through your own efforts) reads as powerfully today as it did when it was first published more

> than 25 years ago. The key to success is knowing your own personality and shaping your investment decisions to match your needs and temperament. This, he reminds us, is a responsibility that only we ourselves can take on. It

> cannot be delegated. But nor need it be an onerous task so long as we arm ourselves with a basic understanding of how and why the investment world works. This is something which, I am glad to see, the Government and the Financial Services Authority are both now trying to spread through various

educational initiatives. If they can do half as well at ex-

plaining what the eternal verities of investment are as Mr Ellis has done in his book, I will be very surprised.

Jonnthan Davis is the nuthor of 'Money Makers – the Stockmarket Secrets of Britain's Top Ten Professional Investment Managers', published by Orion Business Books. It is now available in paperback, price £9.99

'Winning the Loser's Game', normally costing £19.99, is available to readers of The Independent at a special discount price of £14.99 (plus £2 p&p) from Horriman House. Call 01730 233870 or jax 01730 233880 for Visa, Mastercard or Amer orders. Or write to Harriman House Ltd. 43 Chapel Street. Petersfield GU32 3DY. Quote the code number (9397) or the title and mention that you want to take up the Independent Offer. Alternotively, go to the following website: http://www. global-investor.com/bookshop and type 9397 in the search box

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SHOPPING

What every well dressed home will be wearing in '99

An ice-blue modular lamp? Or an African milking stool in aubergine? Ten design gurus make their predictions



attempting to keep up with the Hoppens area of a house. and Hempels of this world, and the soph isticated lifestyle statements made by seagrass flooring and delicately positioned lacquerware bowls (so 1998, darling), can be both exhausting and expensive.

In the ruthlessly chic field of interior design, everyone has their own ideas - so why not make 1999 the year to start respecting your home environment and find out whether you're a dedicated minimalist, a sworn magpie or something in between. Who cares that fluffy pink lampshades are out this year? The main thing is to have some fun - either that, or you could play it stylishly safe and follow the advice of the style gurus:

Caroline Burstein-Collis Director, Browns Living

"Unlike with your clothes, you can't change your home's wardrobe every year, but in 1999 we can afford to loosen up a little. Interiors have recently been very clean and minimal and, although this helps to clear the mind, it would be good to have a little more colour through items such as plants and cushions. Having said this, everyone is different and some people enjoy being surrounded by familiar clutter. The important thing is to make sure you have things in your house that you love."

Head of design at Habitat

"The trouble with homes is that you can't really talk in years, as you can with fashion; but there are several trends at the moment. The first is a popularity for modular products - those that you buy several of and stack together yourself: storage, screens, flooring and even lighting. Another trend is for things that are multifunctional. People are constantly bom-

ofty urbanite, cosy homegirl barded with a kind of fantasy world of how or hedonistic glamour kitten: to live - but the reality is very different. whatever you see yourself To be realistic about what their home is as, your home is a certain like or could be like, people will be reflection of your character, choosing items that are essentially pracfor better or worse. When it tical - steps that fold to become a chair. comes to decorating your own space, or loft lamps that can be hooked on to any

"I hope that people will feel modern as we approach the millennium. At the turn of the last century the public was apprehensive about the future and tended towards comforting, organic shapes such as those of Art Nouveau. This time people will be more confident and proud of embracing technology with distinctive lighting, hifi and cooking gadgets. There may also be a trend for futuristic retro design."

Tricia Guild

Head of Designers Guild

"Natural and interesting textures in white, pale brown and ecru will be balanced with pale iridescent colours of aqua, chalk grey, pale olives and smoky mauve. There will be no frills or clutter but, instead, clear, clean lines together with vivacious images from oriental inspiration."

Toni Rodgers Editor, 'Elle Decoration'

The whole nation has become more home-savvy. First it was sorting out your clothes, then the interior decoration, and in 1999 it will be the turn of the garden. The idea of designing an outdoor room will materialise, with furniture that you can wheel in or out. Attention will be given to sheds, buts and garden hideaways as well as the layout of the lawn. Conversely, nature will extend into the home as people

turn back to real fires in the house. "White will still be the main colour but it will be a soft, new-dawn, spacey kind of white rather than a bleak white. Accessories will still verge on the modern ethnic. Where lots of modern design in shops such as Browns Living and Nicole Fahri takes its inspiration from items such as African milking stools and simplifies this down, in 1999 we will be looking for the real thing."



A clutterless future, top, at Designers Guild (0171-243 7300); tea caddy cum saucer from The Home (01274 530770); textured linen, above, and controversially pale wood, below, from the Conran Collection (0171-399 0710)

Co-owner, The Cross "The theme for this year starts with some fantastic sap-green glassware from Bel-gium and lots of leaf-inspired plates - tropical leaves, lilies and waterlilies and so on. At the other end there will be lots of pale colours, including leather pouffes in

pretty shades of ice blue, pale eau-de-Nil and off-whites. Into summer, there'll be a permanent holiday feel with deep pink, bright turquoise and canary yellow.

Robin and Patricia Silver

"The most important thing this year will be that people are looking for quality and will be willing to pay more for things that be mostly white with raised designs." are well designed than for things that are a bit junky. Colours will be subdued and solid rather than bright, plasticky and transparent, and dark, grainy wengewood - which has a rather African feel to it - will be more popular than sycamore, maple and other paler woods.

"Kitchens will also be prominent in the home. Last year, having watched the River Café cookery programmes, every-one wanted the double-handled mezzalunas, but found them difficult to operate. This year there is a new kind that you hold in one hand and, for an inexperienced cook, they are much easier to handle. Since tea is set to overtake coffee in popularity, there will be all kinds of tea-making and teadrinking equipment in the shops."

Rupert Thomas

Deputy editor, 'World of Interiors' "1999 will probably see an emphasis on hand-made, individual pieces. As the general public's levels of luxury have increased - everyone can now pop into Debenhams to buy a pashmina shawl there is no clear definition between the top and the middle of the market, and so the top end is having to distinguish itself by returning to the crafts tradition.

"The fascination with early Modernism will probably continue; but now that you can buy versions of Modernist designs everywhere from IKEA to Viaduct, the theme is less romantic than it was a year ago.

"The main thing is that you should feel relaxed within your home, so have a bit of everything you like in there. The new tendency is for people to raid every century for the best it provided and put all the different pieces together in one house."

Rebecca Toone

Accessory buyer, Heal's "Whites, greys and creams with accents of darker colours such as aubergine and navy will be the theme for 1999. Texture is still very important, and the use of natural materials - wool, leather, suede. linen, slate and metals. There will be no coloured patterns as suc

Sophie Holloway

Buyer, contemporary furniture, Liberty "There is a trend towards all things Scandinavian and Liberty has bought into those countries, renowned for their beauty and creativity. The pieces for 1999 are typically Scandinavian in form, material and craftsmanship, and are both functional and aesthetic. Bought to fulfil the individual's spatial needs, the resulting collection is simple, high quality and natural with a nod to architectural influence.

"I believe there is also a trend for beautifully crafted and individual pieces for the home. This is why Liberty has revived its "One-Off" department, which opens next month. The idea is that the home is a sanctuary that surrounds us with beautiful objects to inspire and give pleasure to the mind and body."

Louise ChidgeyFabrics buyer, and Jill Webb, furniture

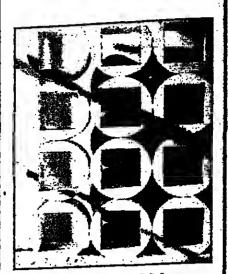
buyer. The Conran Shop "Colours around the home this year will be aubergine, indigo, Indian red, eggshell and eau-de-Nil, and all fabrics will he textured. Sheer linens and organzas will have fine details within the weave of the fabric rather than patterns.

"Over the last two years, furniture trends have swayed towards dark woods but, despite changing trends, The Conran Shop continues to select clean, minimal, high-quality furniture in blond wood with

"The belief here is that we should follow our own line and let other people copy us, rather than the other way round." RHIANNON BATTEN

SIX OF THE **BEST**

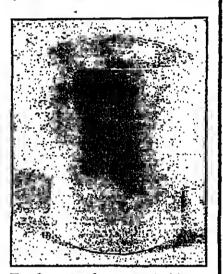
THINGS TO BUY IN 1999



Irkel bookcase by Lloyd Schwann, from £3510, Viaduct (0171-278 8456)



Wood: leather and iron Moroccan bellows, £38.95, Graham & Green



Freeform vase in cream, £26.95, Habitat (0645 334433 for nearest



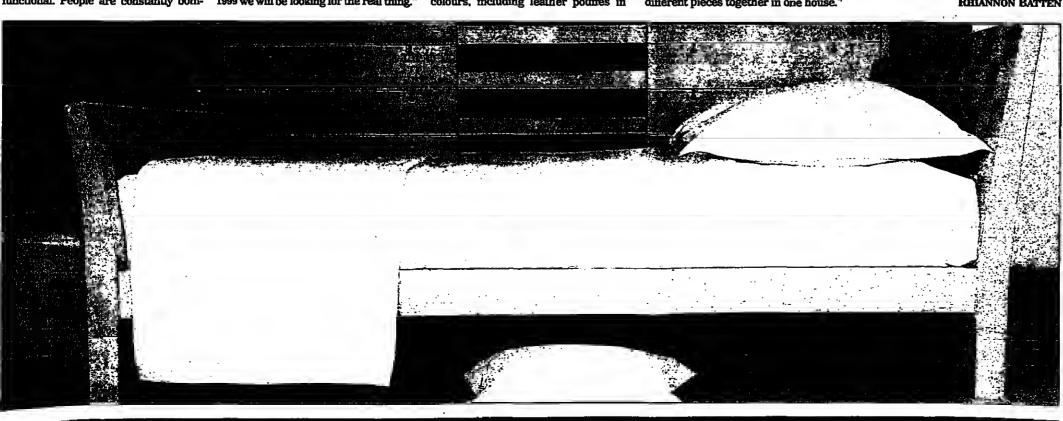
Pallio bed, £599 for 4'6", The Iron Bed Company (01243 778999)



Nem stool in indigo, £39, Habitat (0645 334433 for nearest store)



White linen sheet sets, from £213, the Volga Linen Company at Graham & Green (0171-727 4594)



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I WANT TO OWN ... A PERSONAL ORGANISER

The keys to an organised life

ome people couldn't at a modest £120. Its plus points are organise the proverbial PC Mac compatibility. The downside piss-up in a brewery. is that the keyboard is more fiddly. It's this sort of person Equally tiresome on the fingertips, who makes the inebribut 10 times more fun, is Sharp's HC4500 (£700, 0800 262958) palmtop ated pre-January gesture of resolving to change him- or PC, another 16Mb machine using the berself overnight: to fill in the tax Windows CE 2.0 system. But you'll form on time, make sure the MOT probably be more interested in the never lapses, invest profits prufact that it has a nice colour screen, dently and pay all bills by direct and for another £350 you can buy a debit. None of which, if these people slot-in digital camera. are anything like me, they ever get round to doing.

pointments in the small space allo-

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Price: £370 (or £420 in a Mulberry

Description: The Psion Series 5 is

the best pocket-sized palmtop PC on

the market. Not the swishest in the

LCD screen makes it look rather ant-

iquated - and it doesn't have the

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second. Hence, it's not sold on its

ability to cruise the Internet while

on a bus to Barnet (who would

really want to?), but on its solid

penses), and business applications

spreadsheets, bar charts, sketch-

ingl. Most important, though, is the

machines instead of type on them,

sential element in the man-machine

matches the Series 5 for comfort.

Epoc 32 operating system;

spellcheck; thesaurus; calculator;

Any others worth considering? Hewlett Packard's 620LX (£599, 0990

474747), Although it has a less user-

friendly keyboard, it does bave a

brighter, 256-colour screen and a

bumper 16Mb memory, and runs Windows CE 2.0, an abridged version

of Windows 95 (something you really

could cruise the Net with). Psion,

meanwhile, has also upgraded its series 3 model, the 3MX, with a

faster chip (28MHz rather than its

predecessor's 7.6MHz), which retails

recorder, sketch pad

Style: ***

nts phone oumbers ex-

leather-bound case), from Dixons

vesting in the following items:

KEYS ARE GOOD

Name: Psion Series 5

Stockists: 0990 143050

PILOTS OF THE FUTURE So if you want to get off to the right Name: 3Com Palm III start but you, too, find yourself Price: £199.99 scribbling all your January ap-

Stockists: 0880 7311064 Description: The previous small cated for 31 December 1998, then you metal packets are basically micro PCs, but you may prefer something that works as an adjunct to your PC, rather than trying to emulate it. For those of you who don't want to write the next Trainspotting or The Horse Whisperer on the way to work, a key-board-free PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) may be more useful. 3Com's Palm III is under 5in tall, looks a bit like a Star Trek communicator idoesn't everything these stockpile - in fact its grey-scale days?), can store 6,000 names and addresses and five-years' worth of appointments, and can be written on with a special stylus. with practicality first and gimmicks The specs: 2Mb memory; infrared

Style: *** Anything else worth considering? Philips' Nino 300 (£300, 0800 961445) persocal-organiser capabilibes may seem steeply priced for a posh justifies why it's more expensive than the Palm III by boasting twice its memory, being twice as stylish ta fact that you can type on it without nice, matt silver finish), having a nifty docking bay and being the first PDA to operate using Windows CE. Extra good points include

data transfer; PC docking facility.

your fingers snapping off. Until the next evolutionary step for word processors, when we all speak to neat short-cut command buttons and a decent keyboard remains the es-Pocket Communicator software that allows you tell the machine to perinterface, and none of its peers form certain basic functions. If Darwinian theory can be applied to The specs: 8Mb Ram; 6Mb Rom; machines, then it seems likely that the future of digital organisers will be evolving from this particular machine's DNA.

OLD FAITHFULS Name: Mulberry Planner Price: £195

Stockists: 0171-491 3900 Description: If you still wonder why anyone would want an electronic organiser, when it's transparently quicker both to jot down and look up phone numbers and appointments in a book, then look no further than a Mulberry Planner. crafted in crocodile-styled Congo leather. Some of its nice touches

include inner sleeve credit-card slots and a zip pocker, but it's in the stationary pack that the planner really excels. As well as the usual address and notes, Mulberry has included fact sbeets with such essential information as the international dialling code of the United Arab Emirates, the date of the Henley Regatta, and how to start your ine cellar. It's big, bulky and backbreakingly heavy, but worth the extra effort.

Style: *** * dif you liked the Eighbes).

Filofax (0990 143702 for mail order) offers everything from restrained traditional to the so-bright-youneed-to-wear-shades contemporary; and in mini, pocket, personal and A5 sizes. The crocodile-skin-styled, black leather Ascot (£69.95 for the personal size) is suitably sombre for business purposes, while those of a more athletic bent may prefer the rubber-spined, zip-locked, vinyl Active organiser (£19.95 for pocket size), which comes in khaki as well as yellow, red and blue options.

Writing class: a good personal organiser requires an equally good writing implement. The Mont Blanc 14-carat Meisterstuck Classique (£165, 0181-232 3000 for stockists) has a streamlined feel and a piston converter to take ink cartridges for those who have never got to grips with inkwells.

receipts and used lottery scratch cards in with a sleek, black executive wallet from Land Rover (£45, stockists 0181-202 5454), designed more like a Chelsea boot than a 4x4's

SHAUN PHILLIPS DEPUTY EDITOR, 'ZM'



CHECK IT OUT

RADIATORS

WHEN IT comes to radiators towel radiator. A single tube you're either an exhibitionist or snakes asymmetrically up the you're not. The basic design of this heating staple has remained virtually unchanged over the years, but with all the styles, colours and sizes now on the. market, you can choose radiators that will demand attention, or fade into the background. The eye-catching "Hot

Springs" radiator from Bisque, heating system. inspired by a ring binder, is a continuous steel-tube coil. Made in England, it is one of the Millennium Products selected to be on display in the Millennium Dome, available in three sizes - 0.6m, 1.2m and 1.8m and 15 colours. Prices start at £350 for the smallest size in white. The design of Bisque's round and chunky "Flowform" radiator is based on traditional

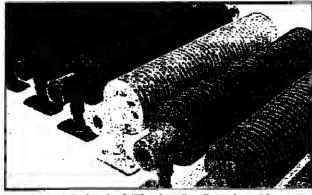
0.5m to 2m (from £139). Another new model that is sure to become a design clas-

wall, ending in a clever ball finial, perfect for hanging a bathrobe on to warm (from £387). It can be supplied in white, chrome or 1,600 other colours - the entire Dulux range, in fact. It is also available in an electric-only version - useful if you don't have a central

Faral Radiators' designs are more utilitarian than Bisque's, but extremely practical. Its aluminium radiators are made in sections 80mm wide, allowing incredible flexibility in size.

But, if you're seeking a radiator that will blend seamlessly into its surroundings, then the Hudevad catalogue is inspiring. Flicking through the sleek pages, it feels like playing "hunt the radiator" among the photos of minimalist interiors. To ensure a perfect match with your paintwork, the Hudevad steel radiators are available in any colour produced by a paint manufacturer, or alternatively, ready primed so that you can

decorate the radiator in situ. The simple, flat-fronted "Plan" design cunningly pro-



The industrially-inspired "Flowform" radiator from Bisque

flat panel radiators (eight

heights, 340 lengths, two

depths, from £120 for the outer

case) are ideal, as no part of

their surface will exceed 43°C.

iod radiators, "Liberty" column radiators from MHS

Radiators are ideal. Cast in

original, intricate, Victorian

scrolled relief patterns, and

supplied in an authentic gun-

metal primer finish (from £220).

they are compatible with both

old and new heating systems.

Alternatively, architectural sal-

vage yards are a good source

To replace or reinstate per-

vides high beat levels from a narrow body and is available in eight heights, eight depths and 215 lengths, which can be straight, curved or angled (from £52). Even more discreet, "Symphony" (four heights, 144 lengths, from £431 and "P5" (five heights, 144 lengths, from £32) radiators can be fitted borizontally or vertically, and can be supplied with pegs or rails for hanging up towels to dry. A bonus of Hudevad's sleek styling is that these radiators are extremely easy to clean. In a child's room, the robust Low

Clyde Combustion's tubular

steel and cast-iron radiators and towel rails are classics that have stood the test of time. For their FKR and Windsor radiators a site-painting service is available, but three other styles are available in 33 colours. The "Doric" radiator (from £145) is the perfect choice for simplicity. There are only 10 sizes, and you can have any colour - as long as it's white. DIONA GREGORY

radiators; but make sure you re-

member to get them pressure

tested before fitting them.

Bisque, 244 Belsize Road, London NW6 4BT, 0171-328 2225 (for nationwide stockists call 01225 469244); Clyde Combustions, Cox Lane, Chessington, Surrey KT9 1SL (0181-391 2020); Faral Radiators, Tropical House, Charlwoods Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 2HJ (01342 305420); Hudevad Britain, Bridge House, Bridge Street, Walton-on-Thomes. Surтеу КТ12 1AL (01932 247 835); MHS Radiators, 35 Nobel Square, Burnt Mills Industrial Estate, Basildon, Essex Surface Temperature (LST) of reclaimed original cast-iron SS13 1LT (01268 591 010)

SHOPTALK

ANYTHING WITH "try me free" screaming from a packet has to be a good thing and this definitely is. Throughout January,

Maidwell is offering a free 200g or 400g cheddar-style cheese to anyone in the UK. The deal is that you huy the cheese - around £1.29 and £2.49 for the two sizes - from your local supermarket, keep your receipt and the pack's promotional label and then



send them both to the address on the label to have your money refunded Even the most

pernickety cheese buffs wbo don't like the idea of buying anything less than a slab of real farmhouse cheddar, freshly sliced, from their local cheese specialist, will welcome Maidwell into their fridges.

Perfect for melting over toast or reclining atop a Jacob's cracker, Maidwell is really worth a try, and then another - especially since it comes packaged in a useful resealable pack.

GOOD THING

IF YOU didn't get a pair of Pauline Burrows pyjamas in your Christmas stocking, now is the time to take action and buy yourself some. Made from fine Italian cotton and handfinished using

traditional methods. they are available in white or black and cost £225 a pair - just the thing for lazy weekends. The pyjamas are available on 0171-261 1988.

MAD THING

TO BE a stylish swigger you need to find your trademark tipple. And it's time to forget the cliched glamour of champagne, Martini or absinthe and indulge your secret Tia Maria side instead with a bottle of Stone's Cream



Liqueur: Launched last September and based on Stone's Ginger Wine and fresh cream, it costs £11.49 a bottle from all major supermarkets.







A marriage made in Motown

The first fruits of the Daimler/Chrysler alliance are on show in Detroit. Gavin Green glimpses the shape of things to come

etroit has about as much in common with Paris as a derelict car park has with the Louvre. But in the same way that the Paris catwalk is still the world trend-setter for high-street fashion, so Detroit's motor show is the pointer for road vogue. Over the years, the North American International Auto Show, held in Detroit's decayed downtown area, has shown the way ahead for car design more than any other motor show.

And it's at these shows that a series of eye-catching concept cars from Chrysler earnt that company the reputation for being the world's most avant-garde street stylist - the Jean-Paul Gaultier or Alexander McQueen of the hlacktop.

This year, of course, Chrysler has changed. It is now part of the vast German Daimler concern, even though the Yanks still optimistically talk about Chrysler "merging" with the Germans. To celebrate, ooe of the star DaimlerChrysler exhibits in Detroit is a Mercedes. The Vision SLR is a coocept car, a type of vehicle from which sensible-shoes Mercedes usually shies away, reckoning that it is wiser to spend dough on cars that the punters can currently buy. But the SLR is a highperformance coupé that boasts not only a traditional Mercedes moniker (the SLR was Mercedes' greatest Fifties sports car) but also a traditional Mercedes sports car feature - "gullwing" doors.

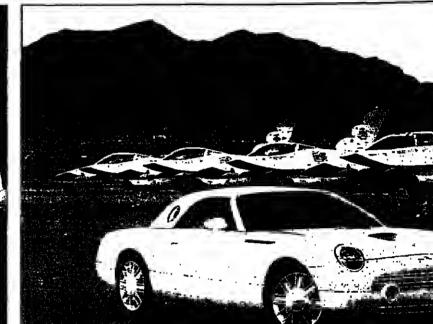
It also has a super-powerful 557bhp supercharged V8 engine. It won't go on sale, at least not in this exact guise, but there's a good chance that a Ferrari-busting frontengined Mercedes supercar, bearing more than a passing resemblance to the SLR, will hit the streets in a few years.

Not that Chrysler has rolled over and died in the face of its higger German brother. It has a raft of intriguing concept vehicles on show, the most outrageous being a vast, 7.2-litre pick-up truck (a breed of vehicle the Yanks love) called the Dodge Power Wagon; while the most visionary was the fuel-cell-powered Jeep Commander a 4x4 that is as green as the countryside it is designed to churn up. One newcomer definitely scheduled for production is the pressive, it looks like a cross between a London taxi and a Fifties hotrod, and will be marketed as a stylish, sporty alterna-

tive to an estate car UK sales are likely. Sensing an opportunity to steal a march from the traditional masters of style, rival US car makers General Motors and Ford put great effort into their catwalk cars. GM. whose stand at Detroit in the past has usually looked more like a used-car lot than a glimpse of the future, had five concept cars. ed like a mobile







Chrysler PT Cruiser. Novel rather than im- Detroit delights: (clockwise, from top left) the BMW X5, Dodge Power Wagon, Cadillac Evoq and Ford Thunderbird

The Cadillac Evoq is the first truly modern and bandsome Cadillac-badged vehicle we've seen in decades. It's a two-seater luxury roadster aimed at the Mercedes SL and Jaguar XK8, and will go on sale within two years. It is earmarked for Europe. The Evoq is peppered with technical novelties. One of the cleverest is "Night Vision", which uses an infrared sensor to make objects visible Three were quite daft - including an open- to the driver well beyond the headlamp top Buick saloon which, with its parallel roof range: objects are shown on a display warm things - sn

"Night Vision" goes on sale in America, on the Cadillac DeVille saloon, later this year It is a world first and promises to be a major

Ford also breathed new life into a famous old badge - the Ford Thunderbird. Forty years ago, the Thunderbird badge sent young men's testosterone levels soaring. Recent Thunderbirds, on the other hand, have had about as much sex appeal as a trucker's vest.

GM effort, though, was highly impressive. animals and other cars - highlighted. overtones of the original 1954 Thunderbird is another US-German hybrid. Designed yet still looks modern and appealing. It uses the underpinnings of the Jaguar Stype - another part of the Ford family and also uses the Jaguar's UK-designed V8 engine. It is designed by Ford's new styling boss. J Mays, who also designed the New Beetle, and is scheduled to go on sale in the US late next year. UK sales are

> almost certain. doubting the production-car star. It was the BMW X5 and, as with DaimlerChrysler, it

and engineered in Munich, it will be built in Spartanburg, South Carolina. It's a 4x4 "sports activity" vehicle and is designed more for motorways than for mud.

BMWs arch rival Mercedes has enjoyed huge sales success with its new M-class 4x1, a result that finally persuaded BMW to put its badge on to an "off-roader". Quite why BAIW is doing this, though, is still For Europeans, though, there was no something of a mystery. After all, BMW owns Land Rover and Range Rover, the kings of the genre, who must wonder just

why BMW needs the X5. It does tend to imply a certain lack of confidence in the British-badged 4x4s. The X5 uses much of the suspension and drive-train hardware earmarked for the next generation Range Royer Diesel, straight-six and V8 engines are on offer and, aware that 4x4s bave a dodgy reputation for safety, the X5 has a modern unitary construction body, strengthened roof pillars and 10 airbags. British sales start m mid-2000 - a few months before the new Range Rover hits

Like a Range Rover, but with added style

Designed in Germany but built in America, the new 4x4 from Mercedes is good-looking - and less expensive than you'd expect. By Roger Bell



road ability is almost incidental. Everyone knows that butch sports utilities rarely stray from terra firma, so why compromise oo-road performance? Mercedes hasn't. Here's an off-roader for the autobahn.

Second, the M-class has style. Gone are the severe military looks of the old Gwagen with which Mercedes fought a losing battle against the Range Rover. Third, it's less expensive than you might expect of a premium vehicle wearing a three-pointed star. Fourth, the quality and finish fall below those expected of a Merc – perhaps because

THERE ARE several unusual things about the M-class is the first passenger car Mer-Merc's new M-class 4x4. For a start, its off-cedes has built outside Germany. But to assemble them in Alabama makes sense, given that 60 per cent will be sold in the US. and fewer than a quarter in Europe.

Technically, the ML320 is everything you'd expect - able, refined, sophisticated, comfortable. It's quick, too - though the ML430 V8, coming oext spring, will be quicker. M-B's contention that its M-class is as car-like to drive and handle as a two-ton ers' needs. So is the articulation of road-bioff-roader can get is irrefutable.

changing five-speed automatic gearbox comfort. You sit tall, with a commanding view (there's no manual option), the lusty V6 en- out, in voluptuous front seats.

gine gives lively acceleration and effortless cruising. Keep the revs down and quietness is another virtue. There's little evidence of the wallow or agitation that can afflict offroaders. I didn't much like the dead, mushy steering, but the cornering composure and tenacity are exemplary.

The M320 relies on electronicallygoverned traction control for off-road grip. which is more than adequate for most ownased all-wishbone suspension that gives such Driving all four wheels through a smooth- a smooth ride. There's little to compromise

repairs. The mechanic

coodemned Bertie as a pile

of junk. This was the worst

car I could have bought, he

said. I was close to tears

garage didn't think there

but went for a secood

opinion, and the next

was a problem.

Ergocomically, the M320 has one advantage over all other Mercs: there's a separate right-hand stalk for the wipers. And

about time, too. If oot the roomiest 4x4, it is hardly spatially challenged. Three in the back is oot a squeeze (though five would be with the optional third row of seats). But the big boot's sill - too high for our arthritic Labrador hampers loading. Nor does the quality of trim and fittings impress for a car likely to cost the thick end of £35,000 with extras. Think of the M320 as a four-wheel drive E-class salooo on stilts and you have its measure. Beware, Range Rover, there's a Merc about.

MY WORST CAR

AMANDA GRANT'S CITROEN 2CV

SPECIFICATIONS

Make and model: Mercedes-Benz ML320, from £31,190 oo the road. Engine: 3199cc V6, 18 valves, 218bhp at 5600rpm. Transmission: five-speed automatic gearbox (with high and low range), all-wheel drive. Performance: top speed 112mph (governed), 0-60mph in

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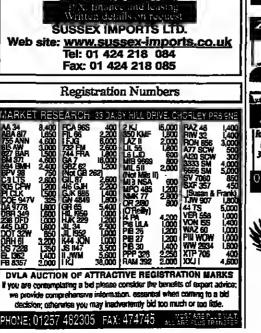
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Cars for Sale







After that it was relatively plain sailing thanks to the brilliant suspensioo - I could drive to shoots without food ending up on the floor. And that food once came in very handy wheo the police stopped me because I turned without signalling. But they scoffed some of my cakes and let me off with a warning. However, Bertie let me

down on occasions. Once in

thick fog somewhere between Cardiff and Warwickshire he just stopped and stranded me for hours. Theo there were all the rust holes; it was freezing in winter. Just as bad were the

petrol fumes. I had to ban passengers from smoking otherwise it would have heen a tin snail flambé.

When I sold it, I thought that the huyer would oot. get far before coming back to complain, but I still got more for Bertie than I paid 18 months hefore - a very handy £350.

And he definitely had a lot left in the tank - my dad spotted Bertie on the road a year later.

Amanda Grant's latest book, The Cosmopolitan Vegetarian Cook Book, is published by Robson Books at £7.99. She was talking to James Ruppert

and the following street

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Promote the second

The Contract of

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The house

Participation of the state of the

Mart Entert Walter First Contract and and ET 1/27 - 1, 11 1/1 1/1 1/1 In the party of each Mere (7) volume me designed and the specialist and begins garden and dancer With the months

materials, such as brick and European Hart house or mains. With that of an inbedding Pyradons ad Stallation and the Wey in imagines my when housing And 50 000 exc. 25 22 21 For Mr Hart the years of ingenity and in September 1793 Institute of British A

gare the house care : Architects Askerds per on the back and of defiling degraph but a The wood street Food that you can't be Hart's previous bonne on ombered house; action legicies visita ge soosed access his creation by the C modern in its spiritua quote the Pube prize a small building the manner of merior of surprising anvioling this is an o

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le Life,

Buying property for children at university not only assures them a decent home but is a good investment for you. By Mary Wilson

Honey, I bought a house for the kids

through the same trauma - where are their children, who are going off to college or university,

For their first year of university life, that place will usually be in the halls of residence. After that time, the student is likely to want a little more independence.

Of course, they can rent digs, but these are not cheap - £70 a week on average in London, £30-£40 a week in more rural areas - and often very basic. An alternative option is for parents to buy a property for their child close to their university or college. This can either be used by the child alone, or - if it has enough rooms - let to other students, whose rent can be used to pay off some or all of the mortgage.

But by the time the idea is considered seriously, the second year has started, or is about to start, and it barely seems to make sense to embark on a property purchase with so little time left.

For that reason, if you want to buy, now - while your child is still in halls - is the time to do it. Among other things, it is now possible both to compare life in halls with that outside and to have a reasonable idea of the

best (and cheapest) areas to live in. And you don't have to do it on your own. In Bristol, four sets of parents have joined forces to buy a house for their children to live in while at university. Eight friends, who have now finished their first year, got together and decided they were prepared to commit themselves to signing

up for a year's lease. And they hope to stay together until the end of

Half the number persuaded their parents to go into the joint venture. the other half will be renting their ronms. "It was a nightmare to start with," says Carol and David Bullen, one of the sets of parents buying

"It took a long time to find the right house, as anything we heard of sold before we gnt the chance to see it. Then it was very difficult organising the mortgage with four signatures, but we managed it. We hoped to find somewhere back in May but, as it happened, we completed on the property just two weeks before nur daughter had to move in. The syndicate has bought a

seven-bedroom bouse with a small garden, which was in good condition but needed a bit of work doing to it. As the families come from Norwich, Hull, Birmingham and Exeter, a considerable amount of organisation was needed to get the house ready for habitation.

"One of the parents has been doing the plumbing, putting in another bathroom; another helped with the electrics; and we have all mncked in, painting and buying second-hand furniture at auction houses," says Carol

"We have all got on fine and, after the initial traumas, it really has been quite fun. I am very pleased with the outcome as rents are going up all the time and at least we know our children are living somewhere decent.'

She reckons that the rents from the four tenants will pay almost all



David and Carol Bullen at home in the house they and other parents bought for their student children

Chris Jones

the mortgage, with the parents making up a small shortfall. "And if there is only a 2 per cent increase in house prices over two years we will make a small profit when we sell," she says.

Another couple of students, hrother and sister Dean and Dhalia Khanna, can thank their parents for giving them the chance to live in a nice flat while they are at university in London. Dean, whn is 18 years old, has just started university while Dhalia has up till now lived in halls

a short distance away from the uni-

of residence.

"Our parents have bought us a two-bedroom apartment at Barratt's development in East Harding Street, EC4. It is perfect for us, only

children attend university," says Rowena Wild, managing director versities," says Dean, Pemberton House is a conversion of a sixof Chestertons Residential. "By storey, former office huilding into 39 running the property as a business, one- and two-bedroom apartmeots. and renting out rooms to other

'Parents like to hand the running of the house over to the children. It gives them excellent commercial responsibility and experience'

Prices range from £275,000 to a penthouse at £420,000.

be kept to a minimum and the 'busi-"There has definitely been an ness' can even show a profit. increase in parents buying large bouses in the towns in which their "Parents often like to band the responsibility for running and

students, accommodation costs can

managing the house to their children as it gives them excellent commercial responsibility and experience."

When the course is finished, the parents bope to have their investment intact, either to continue letting nut or to sell. University towns always need bnmes for their perennially changing students, teachers and ancillary staff, so even if the worst happened and the property market collapsed, there should still be a guaranteed demand for rental accommodation.

"You get a very good return on this sort of property," says James Wilson, a buying agent for Lane Fox. "And the way the market is at the moment, it is unlikely to rise much

in the next six months. It is a very good opportunity to huy for invest-

And should you decide to run the property as a business, then the ARLA (Association of Residential Letting Agents) Buy-tn-Let scheme is available, which makes it far easier for individuals to buy property for investment purposes. The scheme is just into its third year and,

over the last two years, more than 13,000 Buy-to-Let mortgages have been arranged. Chestertons Residential, 0171-262

5060; Lane Fox, 0171-499 4785; soles

office at Pemberton House, 0171-583

2237; ARLA hotline, 01923 896555

Architect's brownfield of dreams

The house that John built is a shining example of how derelict land can be exploited. By Martin Thompson

IMAGINE A rectangular bunk of Cheddar with one corner pared off. That's the best way to describe the awkward end-of-garden plot that John Hart discovered tucked behind the university boathouses on the River Cam.

In this narrow space, measuring a mere 150 square metres, this imaginative Cambridge architect has designed and built for his own use a spacious two-bedroom bouse with garden and garage. With its low hanging eaves, court-

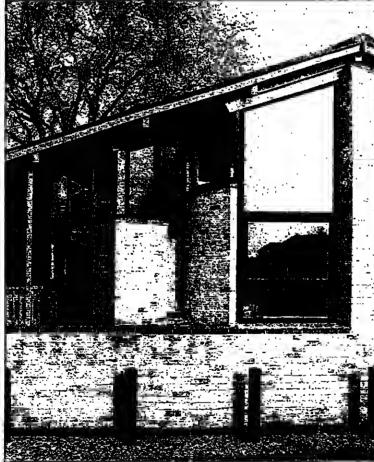
yard garden and fulsome use of warm materials, such as boney-coloured brick and European redwood, the Hart house combines a Japanese feel with that of an English medieval building. By taking advantage of every available inch in a highly imaginative way, it inspires new standards in urban housing. And all for around \$\times \text{£90,000}, excluding the cost of land.

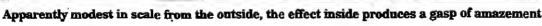
For Mr Hart, the culmination of years of ingenuity and hard slog came in September 1998 when the Royal Institute of British Architects (Riba) gave the house one of its prestigious Architects Awards - a well deserved pat on the back, not only for its spacedefying design but also for the quali-

ty of craftsmanship. The wood finish throughout is so good that you can't help stroking it. Mr Hart's previous home was a 14th-century timbered house in Suffolk, and he acknowledges vernacular influences like exposed roof beams. None the less his creation by the Cam is resolutely modern in its approach to layout - to quote the Riha prize jury: "For such a small building, the house has an interior of surprising generosity." If anything, this is an understatement. Modest in scale it may appear from the outside, but inside the effect produces a gasp of amazement.

The house itself occupies just 80 square metres, and to avoid dead corridor space Mr Hart has all but banished interior walls. Yet open plan turns out to be as open as you want it to be. Despite being open to the rafters, the house feels cosy throughout. By clever use of Japanese style screens and room dividers doubling as storage systems, be has created spacious yet intimate living areas

that flow into one another. The sleek practical kitchen cleverly colonises the thin end of the wedgeshaped frontage, and the bedrooms occupy the back of the house, which





is at a higher level than the living spaces to give a greater sense of privacy and calm. The house is without being overlooked by passersexceptionally light and airy, itself a triumph in the face of adversity. by, be raised the floor level by half a metre so that you gaze over the heads of even the loftiest rowing Blues.

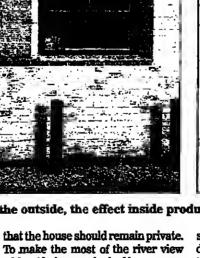
It was not supposed to happen like

To squeeze every inch out of the site. Mr Hart needed to build right up All the more remarkable is the fact to the boundary walls. Neighbours did that Mr Hart constructed the house virtually single-handed. He has built not want their gardens overlooked, so getting daylight to the interior became traditional wooden boats, hut when it came to house-building he admits to his greatest challenge. having been a novice.

While free to put in sliding glass doors linking the interior to the terrace and garden, his solution elsewhere this. The search for a house in central Cambridge produced nothing but dewas to install narrow bands of glazing running along between the eaves and spair and Mr Hart found himself lookthe tops of the outside walls. Known ing for that rarity, a well-situated as clerestory glazing, this throws light brownfield site on which to have a up into the roof void and on a sunny house constructed to his own design. day allows shafts of light to move steadily through the interior turning

it into an impromptu sundial.

Mr Hart was equally determined



that the house should remain private. standards. They were firmly shown the To make the most of the river view door, and Mr Hart picked up where they left off.

But a diplomatic mission had to precede the elbow grease. Aware that two planning applications for the site had already failed, be went knocking on neighbours' doors. He presented them with two scale models, one of the dilapidated corrugated-iron repair shop that presently filled the site and the other of the proposed new bouse. Which would they rather have?

The neighbours were speedily won over, and what looked like the final hurdle - permission to run drains over adjoining private land - was overcome. However, at the 13th hour, neighbours (who have since moved) raised further objections.

He planned to carry on working while project managing his own site. For the whnle year it took to con-However, some huilders that be had chude negotiations, Mr Hart worked on John Hart, chartered architect, can hired failed to live up to his exacting excavating a cellar Wooden Horse style, be contacted on 01223 364000

inside the existing structure. Once the derelict shed had been demolished, the project finally had lift-off. At first it was weekend working only hut John eventually took the plunge and forsook architectural practice to labour dayin day-out on the house for 18 months. Five years slipped by from the time the site was bought to when the project

John Hart

The marathon has paid off. The Hart bouse in Cambridge stands as a shining example of ingenious, accessible design. The current crusade is to make use of every scrap of urban brownfield land to build more bomes. If only Mr Hart's contemporary haven could be cloned throughout our inner cities, people would be deserting the suburbs in droves.

was completed.

STEPPING STONES

ONE FAMILY'S PROPERTY STORY



DESIGNER CAROLINE Scott and charity director Carl Poll have bought three properties since 1985. They now live in a Victorian house in Telegraph Hill, south London with their sons Freddie and Billy.

Carl first considered buying back in 1977 while living in Edinburgh: "A studio flat was £750 and a two-bed flat £1,200, sums which were too small to be mortgageable. I considered borrowing from my mum but went to Paris instead." The Eighties saw Carl

living in a Peckham council flat and still reluctant to buy: "I fancied a more Bohemian lifestyle."

Eventually he tired of putting money into renting" and felt he should take the plunge. Scouring south-east London, he found that the price of a two-bedroom flat in Brixton would buy a whole house in less popular Brockley: "I wanted enough room for someone to live in and help pay the mortgage."

In 1985 Carl bought a three-bedroom Victorian terraced house for £39,000. Carl's partner, Caroline, was then living in short-life property, but the frenzy of increasing prices prompted her also to get a foot on the property ladder. In 1987, she moved in with Carl and together with ber mother paid £66,500 for a terraced house in Crofton Park which she rented out and believed was a good investment: "By

completion it was worth

£78,000, I should probably have sold then."

After 10 years in Brockley, Freddie's birth prompted them to buy somewhere together and end the complication of running two bnuseholds.

In 1995 they sold both properties. Crofton Park's value had slipped to £60,000 and the Brockley house, valued in 1989 at £100,000. sold for £75,000. Selling in a slump meant modest profits but the large, and previously unaffordable. houses they had always coveted in Telegraph Hill were now within reach. They paid £90,000 for a three-storey Victorian terraced house and estimate they have spent

£35,000 on restoration. Roger Grover, of Halifax Property Services, says: Telegraph Hill is the best part of New Cross. It's 15 minutes into the City."

GINETTA VEDRICKAS

Those moves in brief... 1985 - bought Brockley terrace for £39,000, sold for

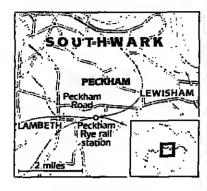
1987 - bought Crofton Park house for £66,5000, sold for £60,000.

1995 - bought three-storey bouse in Telegraph Hill for £90,000 now worth £220,000.

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HOT SPOT PECKHAM, SOUTH LONDON

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entrification comes in differeot guises, stages and degrees. Peckham has already been discovered, so rock-bottom property prices have come and gone. But Peck-ham's progress has been tepid. Unlike Notting Hill or Islington, where prices have strato-soared, this once notorious district is still affordable.

The standard Loodon A-Z tells interesting tales. The black lines that symbolise railway routes are thick as they depart Loodon Bridge, but, as they thin out into various branch lines, they seem to bypass Peckham. Actually, the lines curl around and under Peckham, which in its southern reaches is rich in rail service.

Closer scrutiny shows that some streets are packed together and cluttered, but many are fairly wide apart. PhDs in A-Zs know that houses here will have large gardens and the zig-zag roads among them will be quiet.

Marc Wiehe, of estate agents Winkworth, lives as well as works in the area, which, he admits, was unsaluhrious a few years ago. "The demographics are constantly changing. Peckham used to be known for crime, now it is wall-to-wall Volvos. My wife and I personally experienced more crime when we lived in Kensington."

He notes that Peckham's housing stock is good and that properties even in conservation areas are not that dear. "Rents have gone through the roof. Many people in negative equity cashed in when prices rose, chucked out their tenants and sold. Fewer went up sharply," says Mr Wiehe.

For singles with really tight budgets, inexpensive ex-council flats are



Not such a bad area after all... Cliftoo Cresceot, off Asylum Road

available. For families concerned

about space and schools, large houses

are available for under £200,000 near

the good schools that serve the area.

stantially and "is now almost indis-

tinguishable from East Dulwich", says

Mr Wiehe. "Prices on some of these

roads went through the roof, but

many houses are still available at

North Peckham is slowly changing

as tower blocks are replaced with

more attractive housing, much of it

council or housing-association con-

trolled, and some of it privately held.

Smith of Bushells, notes that "out-

siders tend to think that Peckham Is

not a good area to live in. But once they

move, they don't leave the area. They

ROBERT LIEBMAN

move up within Peckham itself."

Another local estate agent, Stephen

prices which are good value."

South Peckham has improved sub-

THE LOW-DOWN

Prices: Three-bedroom houses in good condition on or oear Asylum Road are available for £110-£115,000, says Stephen Smith, of Bushells. For good value, look at Oglander, Nuthrook and Maxted roads. Fairclough is selling new one-, two- and three-bedroom flats at prices up to £83,250. Transport: Peckham straddles zooes 2 and 3. No tube, but Peckham Rye overground serves Blackfriars and London Bridge. Buses are good, especially the No 12 to Piccadilly and Oxford Street.

A is £524, Band H is £1,573.

Home/office: Some attractively

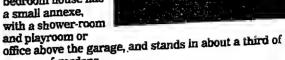
priced shops with flats above are available. Mr Smith says: "If they are on secondary parades, you can generally get change of use for residential or home/office." As the area gentrifies, the number of empty shops should decline. Peckham Partnership: With other interest parties, the council has reached the halfway point in a project to have 3,000 homes demolished and 2,000 new ones huilt by 2002. Of the new units, 60 per cent will he council owned, 20 per cent housing association, and part is to reduce housing density." says a council spokesperson.

Peckham Pulse: One of the partnership schemes, the Pulse is a complex including swimming and hydrotherapy pools, two aerobics studios, a soft play area and separate health and fitness suites. Other council projects include a modern library with media centre and a comprehensive programme to combat crime. Peckham parks with ponds: The area is well served by Burgess

Park in the north and Peckham Rve Common in the south. 1722); Winkworth (0181-299 2722); Fairclough (0171-358 9816).

NEW HOMES, BUT WITH A TWIST

WALNUT TREE Cottage, on the edge of Great Sailing, in northwest Essex, was built just four years ago in the traditional style of the area. The fourbedroom house has a small annexe, with a shower-room



It looks full of old-fashioned character, with exposed an acre of gardens. timbers and a polished oak strip floor in the reception

hall, but it has a 15ft kitchen with gleaming Siemens oven, hoh integrated fridge, freezer and dishwasher and limed oak units with Provençale hlue tiled worktops. There's also a 22ft drawing-room with a massive fireplace of exposed herringbone bricks and a heavy oak beam supporting the chimney hreast. Price £270,000; details from Trembath Welch 01371 872117

HIGHWINDS, oo the edge of Tavistock. looks as though it's been rooted in the moorland in Devon for more than a hundred years. However, the threehedroom property was designed by a local architect and huilt less than 10



With views over the town and the Tamar Valley, it has solid stone facing and Delabole slate windowsills. On the ground floor, there is a dining hall with a Victorian open fire and a maple wood floor, a drawingroom with French doors to the garden and a large

kitchen-/breakfast-room with fitted American oak units. The bedrooms lead from the galleried landing on the first floor, and the lower ground floor is a playroom and utility-room. Price £195,000; details from Manshridge & Balment 01822 612345

THIS ARCHITECT designed house in the centre of Ynys Mon, three miles from Llangefoi, in Anglesey, was huilt specially to hlend in with surrounding older properties. The entrance hall has a vaulted ceiling and facing



brick on one wall. The 19ft drawing-room is panelled in oak and has a period cast-iron fireplace with double doors leading to the conservatory. The kitchen has been divided by a peninsula unit into living and cooking areas and includes a full-height fireplace and huilt-in pine cupboards. Upstairs there are four bedrooms and a bathroom and shower-room. Price £125,000; details

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